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Harmony with Nature

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, submitted pursuant to the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 68/216, is to be included also as an input for the discussion of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda, taking into account the three dimensions of sustainable development. The report draws on contributions to the fourth interactive dialogue on Harmony with Nature, held on 22 April 2014, during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day.

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I. Introduction

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/216 on "Harmony with Nature", during its sixty-eighth session the President of the General Assembly convened a fourth interactive dialogue on the subject during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day, on 22 April 2014, with the participation of Member States, United Nations organizations, independent experts, major groups and other stakeholders. The Secretary-General hereby submits to the Assembly his report on the implementation of resolution 68/216, including a discussion of the focused dialogue, to be included also as an input for the discussion of the post-2015 development agenda, taking into account the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

2. The purpose of the fourth interactive dialogue on Harmony with Nature was to examine the evolution of science, governance and economics in the light of new understandings of our interconnectedness with Nature, which, in turn, have led to practices that further an ethical relationship between humanity and the Earth and life in harmony with nature.

3. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, Heads of State and Government adopted an outcome document entitled "The future we want" (resolution 66/288, annex), in which they recognized that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our home and that "Mother Earth" is a common expression in a number of countries and regions, and noted that some countries recognize the rights of nature in the context of the promotion of sustainable development. They were also convinced that, in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature.

4. Major groups and other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), indigenous groups and civil society organizations worldwide, have also voiced the need for humankind to recognize the fundamental rights of the natural world. On the margins of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012, major groups and other stakeholders at the "Rio+20 People's Summit" called on the Governments and peoples of the world to adopt and implement a "Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth". This same call was issued at the World's Peoples Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, held in April 2010 in Cochabamba, Plurinational State of Bolivia.

5. Since 2012, there have been significant initiatives on sustainable development governance, including: policy documents calling for a new paradigm for "Living Well in Harmony with Nature" ("Vivir Bien en Harmonía con la Naturaleza" in the original Spanish text); new developments on "Rights of Nature" legislation in a number of countries worldwide; and use of the term "Mother Earth" has obtained wider recognition.

6. In September 2012, at the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources World Conservation Congress and, in October 2013, at the tenth World Wilderness Congress, resolutions on the rights of nature were adopted.[1]

[1] See http://www.harmonywithnatureun.org/rightsofnature.html.

7. In December 2013, at the second session of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services, the knowledge systems of living in harmony with nature and Mother Earth became essential elements of the adopted conceptual framework.[1]

8. Representatives of Member States speaking at the fourth interactive dialogue on Harmony with Nature in April 2014, expressed the opinion that these issues should be given appropriate consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.[2]

9. In June 2014, on the occasion of the Commemorative Summit on the fiftieth Anniversary of the Group of 77 and China held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Heads of State and Government adopted the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra "Towards a New World Order for Living Well", which contains a significant number of explicit references that call for the "Living well in Harmony with Nature" paradigm, "rights of nature" and respect for Mother Earth.[1]

10. In his statement delivered at the above-mentioned Summit, the Secretary-General emphasized that if we neglect our Mother Earth, we will be denied the protection she offers, reiterating that we are already at a tipping point. He also reaffirmed the concept of "Living Well" as set forth in the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, and stressed that humankind must redefine its relationship with Mother Earth and engage in a global transformation of attitude and practice. This transformation has already started to unfold.

11. The present report will, therefore begin by addressing the social dimension of sustainable development. In doing so, it will examine how the holistic relationship that indigenous peoples have had with Mother Earth since ancient times has paved the way in the modern world for scientists to look at the Earth as a holistic system, in which no single element takes precedence over another, a system that is indivisible, in an endless continuum, which scientists have named Earth system science.

12. Earth system science has paved the way for Earth system governance, Earth-based law and Earth-based economics, all of which are also addressed in this report. Each of these evolutionary changes, individually and together, point to a new path for us to ensure the well-being of the planet and its people.

II. "Living Well in Harmony with Nature": a scalable paradigm from the developing world[3]

13. The concept of "living well"[4] has emerged over the past 10 years, especially in South America. It is the search for a different way of thinking about lifestyles in reaction to current development models, from growth-oriented models based on the

[2] On 18 July 2014, in the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, harmony with nature was referenced in both the introduction and in goal 12.8

[3] This section draws from the work of Eduardo Gudynas entitled "Buen Vivir: Today's Tomorrow", 2011 (see http://www.palgrave-journals.com/development/journal/v54/n4/full/dev201186a.html).

[4] Vivir Bien or Buen Vivir in the Spanish original.

extraction of natural resources to a more holistic vision of the world that speaks to the indigenous cosmovision, in which the notion of prosperity based on material well-being and consumption does not exist.

14. One of the main exponents of Living Well, Uruguayan ecologist Eduardo Gudynas, explains that living well describes a good life in a broader sense. It is a concept with two main points: (a) it includes critical reactions to classical development theory, and (b) it refers to alternatives to current economic development models, alternatives that are emerging from indigenous traditions. In this sense the concept explores possibilities beyond the modern Eurocentric tradition.

15. The term living well includes the classical ideas of quality of life, but with the specific idea that well-being is only possible within a community. Furthermore, in most approaches the community concept is understood in an expanded sense to include nature. Living well embraces a broad notion of well-being that encompasses harmonious cohabitation with other humans and nature.

16. Two of the most well-known approaches to living well are the Ecuadorian concept of *sumac kawsay*, the Kichwa wording for a fullness life in a community, together with other persons and nature, and the Bolivian Aymara concept of *suma qamaña*. These concepts have received widespread attention, and in a short period of time, have met with broad social, cultural and political support. They offer valuable pathways to overcome the obsession with the word "development", as it is currently understood, and to explore alternatives within a pluricultural setting.

17. The work of Bolivian Aymara sociologist Simon Yampara offers a detailed and sophisticated elaboration of traditional knowledge that responds to the present challenge imposed by the current economic understanding of development. He explains that *suma qamaña* is not restricted to material well-being, as expressed in the ownership of property or consumption at the heart of capitalist societies, but is a harmonious balance between material and spiritual components, which is only possible in the specific context of a community, which itself is an integrated social as well as ecological unit. This social and ecological conception of community is linked to the Andean concept of the *ayllu*, according to which the notion of well-being encompasses not only persons, but also crops and cattle, and the rest of nature. The classical developmental dualism that separates society from nature vanishes in this perspective, as one contains the other and they are not divisible.

18. Living well expresses a process that is now under way and which offers new answers to post-development questions while reinforcing cultural identity and promoting alternatives to classic notions of modernity. It is important to highlight that living well is not restricted or exclusive to indigenous peoples. Other approaches to living well come from neglected groups within modern society who are critical of current economic beliefs.

19. An example of these alternative approaches is the work by Arturo Escobar, a renowned Colombian anthropologist who has undertaken a critical analysis of traditional notions of development and post-development. The analysis concludes that there is a need to reinforce concepts like *sumac kawsay* or *suma qamaña*.

20. The second example refers to environmental philosophies like deep ecology and other biocentric approaches which reject the anthropocentric perspective of

modernity and recognize intrinsic values in the environment: these are analogous to postures found in several indigenous perspectives of living well.

21. Living well promotes ethical perspectives that are grounded in values. It is a reaction against the current domination of utilitarian values, particularly as expressed in the reduction of life to purely economic values and the attendant commoditization of much of nature. Living well acknowledges that there are several ways to give value to life, including aesthetic, cultural, historical, environmental and spiritual elements. The omnipresence of capital categories (such as human capital and natural capital) are redefined to be just one way to give value and included within a broader framework of economics that supports holistic well-being.

22. In all of these approaches, intrinsic values are recognized. As a result, nature becomes a subject too. The vision promoted by living well strongly supports the need to explore alternatives beyond conventional knowledge. Thus, decolonization is also an aspect of living well. Living well respects its internal plurality of conceptions without hierarchies. The classical liberal approach of multiculturality is insufficient for this purpose, so an intercultural position is pursued. Living well is more than a simple coexistence or juxtaposition of different cultures, because they interact in dialogue and praxis focused on promoting alternatives to development.

23. Living well presents strategies such as legal reforms, the introduction of environmental accounting, tax reforms, the dematerialization of economies and alternative regional integration within South America and focusing on serving local and regional needs, rather than prioritizing the needs of global markets.

24. Living well advocates the dissolution of the dualism between society and nature. Nature becomes part and parcel of the social world and vice versa, and as such communities could extend to non-human forms of life. This is consistent with, for example, biocentric environmental perspectives and also indigenous positions that recognize that non-human beings (animals, plants or ecosystems) should all have rights. Thus, the polis is expanded, and the concept of citizenship is widened to include nature.

III. Earth system science

25. A long-held viewpoint concerning human-environmental relationships, the human exemptionalism paradigm, sees human beings as separated from other species, and from the environment, as masters of the planet. The historical origins of the doctrine have already been addressed in detail in the two previous reports of the Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature (A/65/314 and A/66/302). In brief, scientists have admitted for decades that this 300-year-old scientific doctrine is too simplistic and have found that physical substances work and exist through highly complex, interdependent and changeable contexts and relationships.

26. Scientists have embraced a holistic view of the Earth and acknowledged that all the elements are interconnected, and changes in any one single element affect the functioning of the others in countless and, often unknown, ways. Scientists refer to this holistic view of the Earth as Earth system science.

27. Professor Mark Lawrence, of the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, explains that the complex Earth system is composed of the atmosphere, the lithosphere (the solid earth), the hydrosphere (liquid water in the oceans and rivers,

as well as atmospheric water vapor and liquid and ice in clouds), the cryosphere (the frozen earth), the biosphere and the anthroposphere. The anthroposphere includes both the technosphere, all of our industrial development and the noosphere, which is our collective consciousness.[5]

28. Each of these elements is connected with each other in space and time through the innumerable processes taking place in the Earth system, and these connections result in an immense complexity. Thus, looking at any one component in isolation gives only a very limited picture of its behaviour in the context of the Earth system as a whole.[5]

29. This complexity and this degree of interconnectedness across all the elements have been gradually recognized by scientists in the way they look at the Earth. For example, looking back at the 1970s, climate models were fairly simple and only represented the atmosphere and the input from solar radiation. In the 1980s, surface processes like hydrology were introduced. In the 1990s, the atmospheric models were coupled to models of the ocean and sea ice, and over the last decade a major development has been the inclusion of dynamic vegetation models, and improvements in the way that we represent the human influences on the environment.[5] Ecology itself is a science that has grown tremendously in the period since many environmental laws were passed in the early 1970s.

30. Institutes currently participating in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change are now using complex Earth system models rather than simple climate models. They recognize that we are daily learning more on how each of these components and the many processes that occur in the Earth system are represented in these models. In studying these models, the more we learn, the more worrisome the results generally tend to be.

31. The many connections between the different components of the Earth system demonstrate complex natural cycles that connect the atmosphere, the biosphere and the hydrosphere. The following example provides a systemic view of their functioning involved, which itself points to the need for further caution in our actions in order to prevent additional, unanticipated, damage.

32. Laboratory studies show that phytoplankton grow more effectively in warmer waters and when they receive more sunlight. Phytoplankton are key factors in the life of oceans, seas and freshwater basins, producing, inter alia, a gas called dimethylsulfide (DMS). DMS builds up in the surface waters of the oceans and escapes to the atmosphere, where it is converted into other forms of sulfur-containing gases, such as sulfuric acid. Sulfuric acid molecules tend to condense into tiny particles. These particles are important for the formation of clouds, and normally when we have more of these little particles, the same amount of water in clouds will be spread across a greater concentration of smaller droplets, which makes them brighter.[5]

33. As the oceans warm, more DMS is produced and introduced into the atmosphere, creating brighter clouds which reflect more sunlight into the upper atmosphere, thus reducing the amount of sunlight reaching the ocean surface and acting against the initial warming.[5]

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[5] Mark Lawrence, "The 'Anthropocene' — Humans in the Earth System", second interactive dialogue on Harmony with Nature, April 2012 (www.harmonywithnatureun.org).

34. In other words, the initial warming effect, as a result of interactions in the biosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere, leads to a reduced level of warming. What is not yet clear is how strong this negative feedback is, that is, by how much the initial warming is decreased, or even if the process really works that way, since many other factors could interfere, for instance, changes in wind speed or in the mix of phytoplankton species in warmer waters.[5]

35. When Arctic waters are warmed, the resulting decrease in the amount of sea ice makes the waters darker, so that they absorb more sunlight, heat up more quickly, and lead to even greater warming and further reduction of sea ice. This is an example of the extreme complexity of nature.[5] How do humans influence the Earth system?

36. On 12 May 2014, two groups of scientists reported that a large section of the mighty West Antarctica ice sheet has begun falling apart, and its continued melting now appears to be unstoppable. They suggest that the melting could destabilize neighbouring parts of the ice, and a rise in sea level of 10 feet or more may be unavoidable in coming centuries.

37. Scientists advance that global warming caused by the human-driven release of greenhouse gases has helped to destabilize the ice sheet, although other factors may also be involved. They also add that sea level rise is likely to continue to be relatively slow in the near-term but that it may accelerate markedly at some point in the future, potentially throwing society into crisis.

38. The new findings appear to be the fulfilment of a prediction made in 1978 by an eminent glaciologist, John H. Mercer of Ohio State University, who outlined the vulnerable nature of the West Antarctica ice sheet and warned that the rapid human-driven release of greenhouse gases posed a "threat of disaster". He was assailed at the time, but in recent years, scientists have been watching with growing concern as events have unfolded in much the way Dr. Mercer predicted.

39. At the dawn of the twenty-first century, the effects of humanity on the planet, including the impacts of the energy, manufacturing and transport sectors, have resulted in habitat destruction, water pollution, soil degradation and noise pollution.

40. The dark side of human activity is reflected in many impacts, including those reported by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: extensive modification of natural cycles of elements like carbon and nitrogen, depletion of many natural resources, rising sea levels, desertification, intensity of extreme events like droughts, floods, hurricanes and innumerable extinctions.

41. There have been great mass extinctions during the history of life on this planet. These extinctions describe events that led to a profound loss of biodiversity. The most devastating took place at the end of the Permian period, some 250 million years ago, and it came perilously close to emptying our Earth of life altogether. This event is sometimes referred to as the "mother of mass extinctions" or "the great dying".[6] Scientists now suggest that loss of biodiversity may rival climate change in its negative impacts on the well-being of natural systems.

42. Most recently, an alarm has been fiercely sounded regarding the disappearance of bees. Bees, which have been domesticated by humans for some 13 millennia,

[6] Elizabeth Kolbert, *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*, Henry Holt & Cie, 2014.

pollinate a substantial portion of the plants we consume; one calculation has it that every third bite of the food we eat was pollinated by a bee.

43. Domesticated bees represent roughly two thirds of the total bee population in the world and are a major player in agricultural production. The population of bees, domestic and wild, fluctuates considerably from year to year. Drought reduces the amount of wild food available that bees need to survive. Storms and natural disasters can wipe out colonies already weakened by human disturbance, ravaging populations.

44. Professor Barbara Baudot of Saint Anselm College, New Hampshire, and panellist at the fourth interactive dialogue on Harmony with Nature states that:

> "The futility of taking a fragmented approach to nature and environmental problems is well illustrated by the tragic situation of the honey bee presently encountered in many parts of the world. By selectively reducing the hive to a mobile pollinating factory for human enterprises, industrial beekeepers have disturbed the harmony of the hive: the bees are stressed, their instincts all but destroyed, their food poisoned by pesticides or uprooted to make place for monocultures with their short blossoming periods."

A focus on the development and use of only commercial crop varieties and breed is only one of the many threats stalking the maintenance of biodiversity in our modern world.

45. On 9 May 2014, the Harvard School of Public Health released a new study suggesting that the use of even small amounts of neonicotinoids-based insecticides can significantly harm honeybee colonies and cause massive wintertime die-offs. In the study, the Harvard scientists found that hives of bees exposed to two forms of neonics were much more vulnerable to colony collapse disorder than unexposed hives.

46. Neonics, the short form for neonicotinoids, are a class of neuro-active insecticides chemically similar to nicotine. The development of this class of insecticides started in the 1980s. Neonics are the first new class of insecticides to be developed in the last 50 years and they are the most widely used insecticide in the world.[7]

47. Another group of species that is also registering significant population declines leading to extinction are amphibians; up to 40 per cent of amphibian species are now threatened with extinction. Scholars David B. Wake and Vance T. Vredenburg argue that, based on current extinction rates among amphibians, an event of a similarly catastrophic nature like the "great dying" is currently under way.[8] If Wake and Vredenburg are correct then today we are not only witnessing one of the rarest events in life's history but also causing it. "One weedy species" the pair observed, "has unwittingly achieved the ability to directly affect its own fate and that of most of the other species on this planet".[6]

48. In light of the alarming rate at which biodiversity is being lost, and in view of its indispensable role in food production and agriculture, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will issue a country-driven report on the

[7] See http://www.xerces.org/neonicotinoids-and-bees.

[8] See http://www.pnas.org/content/105.

state of the world's biodiversity for food and agriculture in 2017, highlighting the contribution that biodiversity, be it the insects that pollinate plants, the microscopic bacteria used in making dairy products or the thousands of varieties of crops and cattle that sustain food security worldwide, makes to food security, livelihoods and environmental health. In the face of present and future social, economic and environmental changes, genetic diversity represents an invaluable repository of traits that can be used to improve the sustainability, resilience and adaptability of food production systems, as well as to ensure the long-term well-being of the natural world.

49. Humanity needs to make all possible efforts to halt the loss of biodiversity, which also impacts food and agriculture. Local communities and researchers rely upon biodiversity to improve the quality and output of food production. When natural systems are eroded, humankind loses the potential of adapting food production to changing socioeconomic and environmental conditions, such as are resulting already due to climate change.

IV. Earth system governance

50. Earth system science has evolved from Cartesian, cause-and-effect, duality science to a form of study that embraces the complexity of life. It has informed and given place to Earth system governance, which draws upon the holistic scientific knowledge provided by Earth system science to evolve laws and policies that better manage human behaviour in light of the interconnections among people and nature. Both Earth system science and Earth system governance continually and mutually reinforce each other regarding a holistic vision for the planet.

51. Given that no species and few ecosystems have remained unaffected by the expansion of the human species, the Earth System Governance Project was established in 2007 as a direct result of the evolving understandings of Earth system science. Diversitas, the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change and the World Climate Research Programme are the four main programmes associated with the project. These programmes, in their individual capacity, have existed since the 1990s, but it became apparent that they could not individually address integrative questions on the Earth system, especially those relating to fundamental issues of energy (carbon), food, water and health.

52. Today the four programmes provide evidence that the entire Earth system now operates well outside the normal state exhibited over the past 500,000 years, and that human activity is generating changes that extend well beyond natural variability. It has become obvious that the institutions, organizations and mechanisms by which humans currently govern their relationship with the Earth and its complex biochemical systems are not only insufficient but also poorly understood. With the creation of the Earth System Governance Project it is clear that governance, like science, has been moving towards the same holistic approach to understanding humankind's role on the planet and how much humans are part of nature.[9]

[9] http://www.earthsystemgovernance.org/about.

53. The Earth System Governance Project is the largest social science research network in the area of governance and global environmental change. The international research programme takes up the challenge of exploring political solutions and novel, more effective governance systems to stem and reverse the current, negative transitions in the biogeochemical systems of our planet. The normative context of the research is sustainable development, in which Earth system governance is seen not only as a question of effective governance, but also as a challenge for political legitimacy and social justice.[9]

54. The notion of governance refers here to a less hierarchical structure than that in traditional governmental policymaking (even though most modern governance arrangements will also include some degree of hierarchy), a form of government that is more decentralized, open to self-organization and inclusive of non-State actors that range from industry and NGOs to scientists, indigenous communities, city governments, international organizations and the public at large.[9]

55. Professor Frank Biermann, of the VU University in Amsterdam, Chair of the Earth System Governance research alliance, and panellist at the fourth interactive dialogue on Harmony with Nature, further explained that the Earth System Governance Project reflects a major paradigm change in our understanding of the Earth, since today we are no longer facing challenges that can be accurately described by the term "environmental policy". Instead, humankind is faced with a fundamental transformation of core elements of the entire Earth system significantly induced by human behaviour that requires new approaches.

56. Professor Biermann further explained that today Earth system governance is one of the key challenges for policymakers and Governments as well as for the collective institutions that Governments have created. Most prominently, it is a key challenge for the United Nations. Given the complexities that we face, Professor Biermann stressed the need to engage in a process of serious reform on international governance and institutions:

> "We cannot resolve the problems of the twenty-first century with institutions that function with rules that essentially stem from the nineteenth century. Therefore, it has become imperative to explore, both scientifically and politically, new types of multilateralism. In doing so, a reform of the intergovernmental system will not be the only level of societal change nor the only type of action that is needed toward sustainability. Changes in the behavior of individual citizens, in societies, new engagement of civil society organizations and reorientation of the private sector toward a sustainable economy, are all crucial to achieve progress. Yet, in order for local and national action to be effective, the global institutional framework must be supportive and well designed".[10]

57. It has been recognized that environmental policy no longer addresses the full range of challenges that we face in terms of sustainability, and the same holds true of environmental legislation. Since the 1960s, when the promulgation of environmental legislation began in earnest, and now five decades later,

[10] Frank Biermann, "Governance in the Anthropocene: Towards Planetary Stewardship", fourth interactive dialogue on Harmony with Nature, 22 April 2014 (www.harmonywithnatureun.org/index.php?page=view&type=12&nr=40).

environmental legislation has failed to protect the basic structure and integrity of the Earth's ecosystems.

58. Linda Sheehan, the Executive Director of the Earth Law Centre, panellist and moderator, respectively, at the third and fourth interactive dialogues on Harmony with Nature, stated that "environmental legislation has ignored the interconnection of water, air, land and wildlife. Present single-stressor laws missed the fact that humans could transform whole ecosystems through air pollution on a global scale. Hence, a legal system based on recognizing that ecosystems, in all aspects, have inherent rights to health, prosperity and evolution is gradually becoming the norm.[11]

59. Ms. Sheehan further recalled that under an Earth-based legal approach, the two-way relationship is fundamental: without reciprocal respect for protecting human and natural rights, laws will bias advantages to one side or the other. The objective is a legal system founded on equal fundamental rights and responsibilities — one that reflects and implements the mutually enhancing relationships that exist among humans and the natural world. What is needed is a corpus of Earth law integrating modern science and ethical awareness of our moral responsibilities as humans. If we are to survive as an ethical and physical species, we must legislate a system of Earth-based law to mirror our expanding scientific and ethical "awareness" and our place in the Earth community.

60. Communities around the United States have already started to adopt laws reflecting these relationships. Driven to action primarily by outside attempts to injure local waterways and lands, municipalities are adopting ordinances that specifically recognize an "enforceable right of natural communities and ecosystems to exist and flourish".[1]

61. In August 2012, in New Zealand, an agreement was made between the Whanganui Iwi and the Crown recognizing, inter alia, that the Whanganui River is a living being and that the people and River are inseparable, and granting statutory recognition of the River as a legal entity with standing in its own right.[1]

62. The Supreme Court of India, in its verdict on the legal case of T. N. Godavarman Thirumulpad v. Union of India (2012) found that environmental justice requires moving away from anthropocentric to ecocentric principles. Sustainable development, the polluter-pays principle and intergenerational equity have their roots in anthropocentric principles centred on human interests. The non-human has only instrumental value to humans. Ecocentrism however is centred on nature, viewing humans are part of nature, and the non-human is granted intrinsic value.[1]

63. Fander Falconí, Ecuadorian economist and scholar and panellist at the fourth interactive dialogue on Harmony with Nature, argued for the need to build a sustainable society respectful of the environment, both as a matter of principle and as a matter of rights. He called for extending rights to nature in the same way that rights have been extended to humankind. Rights of nature are, in Falconí's view, becoming part of international discussions on matters of environmental justice.

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[11] Linda Sheehan, "Earth Day Revisited: Building a Body of Earth Law for the Next Forty Years", in *Exploring Wild Law: The Philosophy of Earth Jurisprudence*, Peter Burdon, ed. (Wakefield Press, Kent Town, South Australia, 2011).

64. In 2008, Ecuador became the first nation to adopt a constitutional provision endowing Nature with inalienable, enforceable rights. Its new Constitution states that: "Nature or Pachamama, where life is reproduced and exists, has the right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate its vital cycles, structure, functions and its processes in evolution". The Constitution states that the rights of nature should be taken into account in an integral manner, including the maintenance and regeneration of its cycles, functions and evolutionary processes, and the right to restoration.[I]

65. The first court victory for the rights of nature took place in Ecuador in 2010, when local plaintiffs sued on behalf of the rights of the Vilcabamba River. The local government had initiated a road expansion project, dumping debris into the river, affecting the river's flow and causing local flooding. The court found that the river's constitutional rights to flow had been violated and charged the provincial government with repairing the damage.[I]

66. Since 2007, the new policy of the Plurinational State of Bolivia has embodied the concept of "Living Well" ("Vivir Bien"), not only in terms of income but most importantly in terms of respect for cultural identity, community and harmony among human beings and between human beings and nature. Early in 2009, a new Constitution was promulgated on the basis of such principles. In December 2010, a new Law on the rights of Mother Earth was passed, granting her the following seven rights: the right to life and to exist; the right to not have cellular structure modified or genetically altered; the right to pure water; the right to clean air; the right to balance; the right to continue vital cycles and processes free from human alterations; and the right not to be polluted. In October 2012, the Framework Law for Mother Earth and Integrated Development for Living Well was adopted.[I]

67. On 17 October 2013, in the Federal District of Mexico, the Environmental Law for the Protection of the Earth entered into force. The law, inspired by the legislation passed by the Governments of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Ecuador to protect Mother Earth, also recognizes the Earth as a living being.[I]

68. The rights and remedies included in new environmental legislation reflect the recommendations of University of Southern California law professor Christopher Stone, who wrote in 1972 that nature should have standing in a court of law, and that its legal rights must be enforceable on its behalf as the injured entity, and must include remedies that run to the benefit of the injured holder of the right, in this case, the environment. Actions by the public on behalf of the natural world are essential to such a rights-based, Earth law system.[II]

69. Creating a system of Earth law that recognizes the equal inherent rights of all Earth's community members to struggle, thrive and evolve together is a daunting task. Modern science and ethics increasingly lead us to appreciate the many benefits of respectful relationships with the natural world. As science has evolved to recognize the interconnections between people and nature, so too are we evolving Earth-based laws and governance systems that embed and implement such mutual and respectful rights.[II]

V. Earth-based economics

70. The holistic worldview advanced by Earth system science has informed and given place to Earth-based laws and governance, as well as Earth-based economics, which similarly draws upon Earth system science in the development of a new, scientifically based economics.

71. At the 2013 Parliamentary Hearing held at United Nations Headquarters, which brought together close to 200 parliamentarians from a range of countries to discuss the theme "Re-thinking sustainable development: the quest for a 'transformational' global agenda in 2015", the issue of the "growth dilemma" was discussed from both the economic and environmental perspectives. The new thinking arises not just from ecological considerations, although unbridled growth is a factor of negative developments such as climate change or biodiversity loss, but from a recognition that the growth-based economy relies unsustainably on exploitation of the natural world.[12]

72. Parliamentarians pointed that for the growth-based model to remain stable it must nurture a consumerist culture in which people are hooked on buying more things. This culture is justified on the grounds that such consumption is needed to ensure jobs and tax revenues. Without such a model, experts claim that unemployment will go up, consumption will go down, government deficits will increase, public expenditures will decrease, loan defaults will rise, investment will drop and the economy will spiral into collapse. To avoid that spiral, the world chases ever more growth, building a complicated set of relationships based on a growing number of people working to produce increasing quantities of goods for people to buy, investing their savings in consumption, continually pursuing the growth needed to keep economic stability alive".[12]

73. Vaclav Smil, Canadian scientist, policy analyst and Professor Emeritus in the Faculty of Environment at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, has written extensively on the environment, food production and energy. When asked about consumption rates, he explains that when we look at our iPhones we may think that we no longer need clocks, telephones, cameras, compasses or maps, that we need only the one item, the smartphone, and we may get the impression that we are using fewer products. It has been estimated, however, that 1 billion cell phones are thrown away every nine months. Therefore, dematerialization is only happening in relative terms.

74. He further compares this to the increase in energy seen due to efficient energy consumption. Households now have, instead of one, more televisions, refrigerators and cars than in the past. In other words, per unit consumption is down, but overall consumption is up.

75. Representatives of Member States speaking at the fourth interactive dialogue on Harmony with Nature further noted that, given the work currently being undertaken by scientists, academia and civil society on the precariousness of life on Earth, a paradigm shift in which nature is no longer treated as a commodity is necessary if we are to achieve sustainable development.

[12] Inter-Parliamentary Union, Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, "Rethinking sustainable development: the quest for a 'transformational' agenda in 2015", Summary report, November 2013.

76. At the 2013 Parliamentary Hearing, Parliamentarians expressed opinions in line with the well-known views of the Secretary-General as well as of the Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which are set out in his statement to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development on 7 July 2014.[13] Parliamentarians agreed that resolving the growth dilemma requires a new approach to human well-being, which, in turn, requires reflection about what prosperity really is. Clearly, it is not increasing material growth or ever more consumer affluence. Prosperity is as much as our psychological and social health, our ability to immerse our senses in the nature around us, and our sense of belonging in society, as it is about acquiring things. It is the art of living well on a finite planet".[12] This necessarily includes the well-being of nature herself.

77. In support of this new reflection, the Stiglitz Commission, established in 2007, recognized the gross domestic product (GDP) as a measure of output and not of well-being, where well-being is a multidimensional concept that covers material living standards and the non-monetary aspects of quality of life. The need of having a valid alternative to GDP has been recognized in previous reports of the Secretary-General as an essential component to live in Harmony with Nature (see A/65/314, A/66/302 and A/67/317).

78. The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, "The future we want" laid the foundation for the creation of the Friends of the Chair Group to work on an alternative to GDP (resolution 66/288, annex, para. 38). On February 2014, the Statistical Commission of the United Nations, at its forty-fourth session, established the Friends of the Chair Group on broader measures of progress as a response to the request of the Conference that it launch a programme of work on broader measures of progress to complement GDP and better inform policy decisions.

79. In their findings, the Group reaffirmed the analysis made earlier by the Stiglitz Commission regarding GDP: that is, that indicators of material well-being have to go beyond GDP. "Sustainability over time can be assessed by looking at the set of key economic, environmental, social and human assets transmitted from current to future generations, and how these assets are affected by today's actions, policies and behaviours".[14]

80. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in his flagship report entitled "Shifting from quantity to quality: growth with quality, efficiency, sustainability and dynamism", issued in December 2013, highlights that "short-term growth strategies aimed at maximizing GDP growth have created a 'vicious cycle' of growth driven by the exploitation of human and natural capital. Achieving sustainable development requires shifting to a 'virtuous cycle' of investment in people and the planet — where economic growth is a means for shared prosperity and human well-being within planetary limits — rather than a goal in itself".

81. A new Earth-based economic model would embody an image of the human being that is fundamentally different from the narrow understanding of neoclassical

[13] Remarks by the Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Mr. Martin Chungong, at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, ministerial dialogue on a "Universal Integrated Policy Agenda to Implement Rio+20 and realize the Future we Want".

[14] E/CN.3/2014/4, para. 14.

economics, which assumes that all individuals are driven exclusively by their own interest.[12] Under this new Earth-based economic system, human well-being and prosperity would no longer be at the Earth's expense, but instead would serve the Earth. This system is consistent with the findings of the four previous reports of the Secretary-General as an essential component for living in harmony with nature, recognizing that ecological economics (rather than the marketization of nature) is necessary to ensure the well-being of both planet and people, which are intimately interconnected.

82. At the fourth interactive dialogue, some Member States reflected that living in harmony with nature must also mean upholding the principle of equity and ensuring an equitable sharing with nature to ensure its continued health. They stressed that current consumption patterns and modern lifestyles such as those made popular in the developed world are not only unsustainable but also inequitable, and that we must find new pathways for transition to a culture of a more frugal living, less wastage and greater equitable sharing of resources.[15]

83. Sustainable agriculture is an example of such a pathway. Jim Gerritsen, a panellist at the fourth interactive dialogue on Harmony with Nature, owns and operates an organic farm in the northeastern United States. Mr. Gerritsen pointed out that organic farming is one approach to sustainable agriculture that seeks to fundamentally be in harmony with nature as it aspires to replicate the complex natural living systems of Mother Earth. Organic farming involves maintaining the health, quality and fertility of the soil so that plants are wholesome and life-sustaining.

84. According to Gerritsen, a growing number of scientific studies make clear that organic farming is a superior production system when it comes to metrics of food quality, food sovereignty and resilience in the face of climate change. One of the most important studies supporting a shift to organic farming, "Wake up before it is too late: make agriculture truly sustainable now for food security in a changing climate", was issued by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in September 2013.

85. Permaculture is another example of agricultural method currently being applied that also seeks to be in harmony with nature. Permaculture is a branch of ecological design, ecological engineering, environmental design, construction and integrated water resources management that develops sustainable architecture, regenerative and self-maintained habitat and agricultural systems modelled from natural ecosystems.

86. Permaculture implies working with, rather than against nature, protracted and thoughtful observation rather than protracted and thoughtless labour, and considering plants and animals together, rather than as separate product systems.[16]

87. The techniques and strategies of sustainable farming may vary depending on location, climatic conditions and resources available, but while the methods may differ, the principles of this holistic approach remain constant.[16]

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[15] See http://www.harmonywithnatureun.org/index.php?page=view&type=12&nr=40.

[16] Bill Mollison on permaculture (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permaculture#cite_note-4).

VI. Conclusion and recommendations

88. Climate change is an increasingly pressing concern and a top priority for the United Nations. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the average surface temperature of the Earth will rise between 2.5 degrees and 10.4 degrees Fahrenheit within the next 100 years if our greenhouse gas emissions are not soon reduced. While a 2 degree may seem small, one must note that the Earth's average temperature has stayed within a variance of no more than 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit for 10,000 years. A few degrees of average temperature change make the difference between an ice age and the present climate of the Earth.[17]

89. The importance of every single degree of rise in global temperature can no longer be dismissed since a 10 degree increase in the Earth's temperature is as important as a 108 degree fever in our bodies. There is no magic remedy that will cure this temperature rise overnight, because carbon dioxide can persist for up to a few centuries in the atmosphere.

90. Human health is thus inextricably linked to the health of the planet and living and producing in harmony with nature. Inexorably, climate change will severely affect global public health. To address this challenge, the World Health Organization will host the first global Conference on Health and Climate from 27 to 29 August 2014 in Geneva.

91. Within this decade, humanity must intensify efforts to restore a healthy environment for present and future generations. People must seek a world where all human activity takes place in balance with the Earth's offerings, and with reciprocity, dignity and respect for nature. If we humans are to succeed as a species, we need to redefine wealth as something more than financial accumulation and closer to seeking well-being in harmony with nature and by transforming the dominant economic and legal paradigms as indicated above.

Recommendations

92. **In light of the foregoing discussion, and in order to provide insights and inputs from the ongoing debate on Harmony with Nature to preparations for the post-2015 development agenda, the Secretary-General submits the following recommendations:**

(a) **Invite the existing Harmony with Nature knowledge network of practitioners, thinkers and academicians who work at the cutting edge of their natural and social sciences, including physics, chemistry, biology, ecology, economics, sociology, law, ethics, anthropology, medicine and linguistics, to further advance the conceptualization of a new development paradigm that reflects the principles, drivers and values of living in harmony with nature, relying on current scientific information, particularly from centres of excellence on economic, social and environmental sciences;**

(b) **Support, through the Harmony with Nature website (www.harmonywithnatureun.org), the work being undertaken by Member**

[17] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Working Group II, "Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability", 31 March 2014.

States, major groups and other stakeholders, and the growing knowledge network on the subject, in keeping with the "The future we want", in order to showcase holistic and integrated policies to guide humanity towards a life in harmony with nature and the restoration of the health and integrity of the Earth system;

(c) Ensure through balanced debates and discussions in all preparatory activities for the post-2015 development agenda that the needs of both the planet and its people are equally taken into account.

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Sustainable development: promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

New and renewable sources of energy are perceived not only as an important and valuable option for energy supply but also as key resources for addressing global challenges, including universal energy access, energy security, climate change and ultimately poverty eradication and sustainable development. Continuing technological advances, lower costs and successful deployment and use of renewable energy systems in many developed and developing countries have demonstrated their potential to satisfy energy requirements and to replace other energy sources. As renewable energy markets and industries mature, new opportunities arise, but at the same time different challenges and uncertainties appear. The last two years have seen declining investments globally owing to the international economic crisis, changes in national policy environments and potential competition from new discoveries of unconventional fossil fuel resources. Nevertheless, 2013 and 2014 have seen a continuous increase in global renewable energy use and in the number of countries with renewable energy targets and supporting policies. However, much more needs to be done to make the growth in renewable energy self-sustaining and to pursue the accelerated deployment necessary to achieve critical universal goals.

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I. Introduction

1. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation calls for action to "substantially increase the global share of renewable energy sources with the objective of increasing its contribution to total energy supply".[1] During the last decade the General Assembly has encouraged the United Nations system to continue to raise awareness of the importance of energy for sustainable development and poverty eradication, including the need for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and the increased role these sources could play in the global energy supply.

2. Recognizing the important role that energy plays in sustainable development, the General Assembly declared 2012 the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All in its resolution 65/151. Member States and international organizations implemented important initiatives for the promotion of access to modern energy services and for enhancing the use of new and renewable energy technologies.

3. In the outcome document of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, "The future we want", endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 66/288, Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives recognized "the critical role that energy plays in the development process, as access to sustainable modern energy services contributes to poverty eradication, saves lives, improves health and helps provide for basic human needs".

4. Furthermore, the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals has proposed the goal of ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, with the following targets for the year 2030: ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services; substantially increasing the share of renewables in the global energy mix; doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency; enhancing international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technologies; and expanding infrastructure and upgrading technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, particularly least developed countries and small island developing States.[2]

5. Stressing the need for a coherent, integrated approach to energy issues and the promotion of synergies across the global energy agenda for sustainable development, the General Assembly, in its resolution 67/215, declared 2014-2024 the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All.

6. The present report is submitted in response to the General Assembly resolution 67/215.

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[1] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-6 September 2002* (United Nations Publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, para. 20 (e).

[2] See http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html.

II. Overview of new and renewable sources of energy

A. Status

7. The role of renewable energy in global energy supply continues to increase in both developing and developed countries. New and renewable sources of energy are now perceived not only as valid and important energy supply options but also as key resources for addressing global challenges, including universal energy access, energy security, climate change and ultimately poverty eradication and sustainable development. Nevertheless, the overall contribution of new and renewable sources of energy to global energy systems remains limited and the outlook is uncertain owing to a declining trend in investments, negative changes in national support policies in a number of countries and the discovery of new and competitive unconventional oil and gas sources.

8. Despite these trends, during 2012 and 2013 the overall number of countries with new renewable energy policies and targets has increased considerably. Continuing technological advances, lower costs and innovative financing are making renewable energy technologies affordable in an increasing number of countries. Although some renewable energy industries have experienced difficulties owing to continuing consolidation, industries are adapting rapidly with flexibility and diversifying their products while developing global supply chains. At the global level, the initiative of the Secretary-General entitled "Sustainable Energy for All" and the declaration by the General Assembly of 2014-2024 as the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All have sparked significant commitments to actions that provide strong support for the increased use of new and renewable energy sources. These efforts, combined with those of other international organizations, are key to sustaining the transformation of energy systems and to fuelling the green economies of the future.

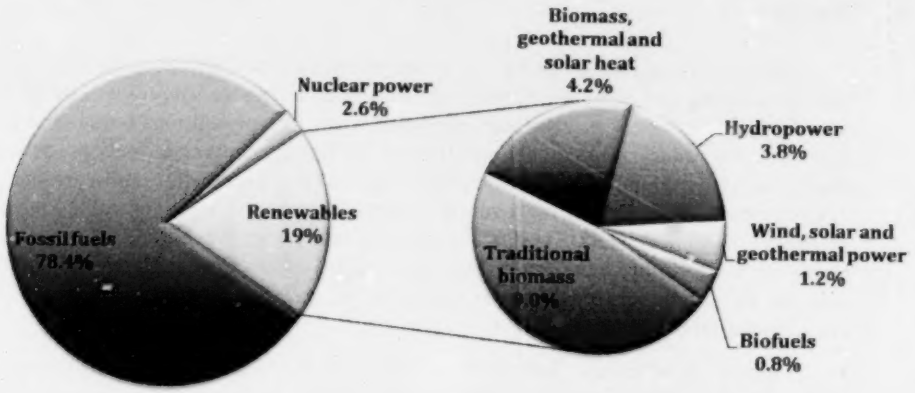
9. Nevertheless, major challenging economic and technological factors are still affecting the large-scale deployment of renewable energy. They include the need for further progress in reducing costs through learning and scale-up; creating a flexible investment environment in many countries; integrating renewable energy technologies into energy systems; enhancing research and development; and assuring the sustainability of renewable energy technologies.[3]

10. Figure I shows fuel shares in global final energy consumption in 2012. The total share of renewable energy reached 19 per cent, up from 18 per cent in 2010.[4] This refers to all forms of consumption including transport, heating, cooling, cooking and power generation. Traditional biomass accounts for 9 per cent of the current renewable energy consumption. Modern renewable energies make up only 10 per cent of total consumption. This includes 4.2 per cent from sustainable biomass, geothermal and solar for heating purposes, 3.8 per cent from hydropower, 1.2 per cent from wind, solar and geothermal for power generation and 0.8 per cent from biofuels for transport.

[3] International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, *Global Energy Assessment: Toward a Sustainable Future* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2012), and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Laxenburg, Austria.

[4] Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), *Renewables 2014: Global Status Report* (Paris, 2014).

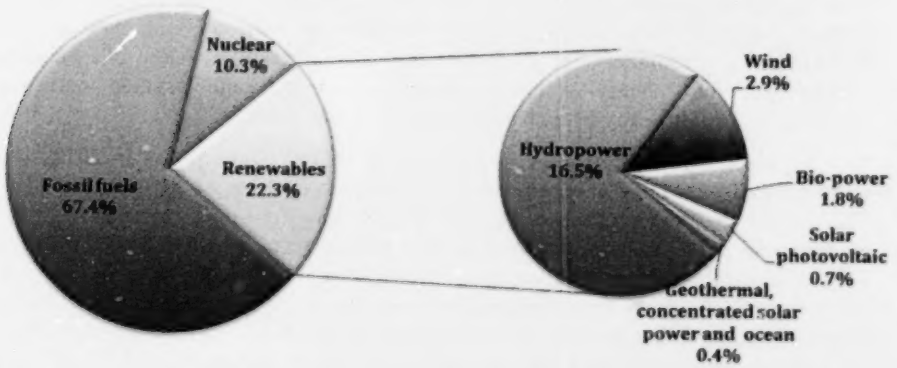
Figure I
Fuel shares in global energy consumption, 2012



Source: Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), *Renewables 2014: Global Status Report* (Paris, 2014).

11. Figure II shows fuel shares in global electricity generation for 2013. The share of renewables in electricity generation rose to 22 per cent from 20 per cent in 2011. Hydropower has the largest share at 16.5 per cent, followed by wind, biopower and solar photovoltaic, respectively. Electricity generated globally by renewable energy sources other than hydropower represents only 5.8 per cent.

Figure II
Fuel shares in global electricity generation, 2013

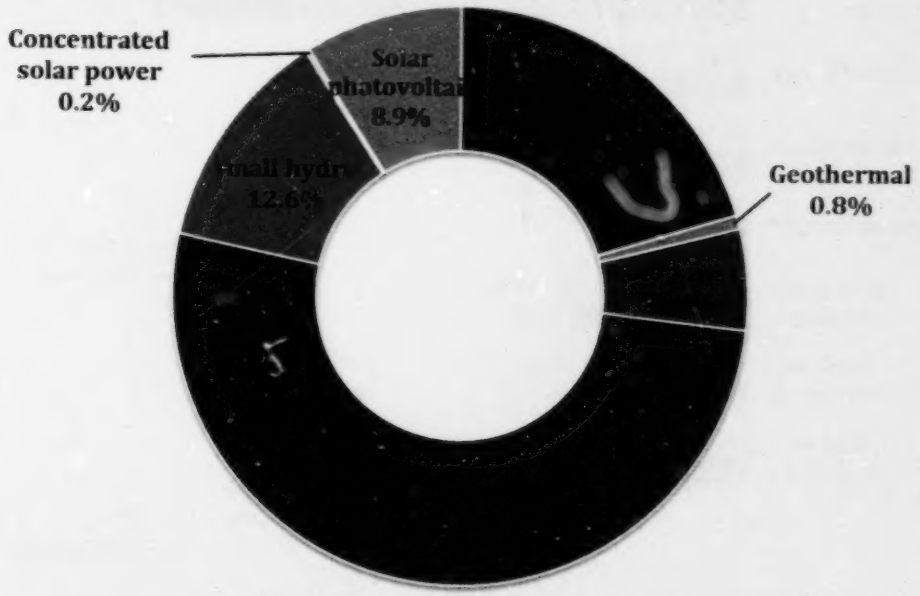


Source: REN21, Renewables 2014: Global Status Report (Paris, 2014). The nuclear share is based on estimates of nuclear electricity generation for 2013 by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

12. In terms of electric power capacity, the overall global renewable electric power capacity increased to 1,560 gigawatts in 2013 from 1,440 gigawatts in 2012. The

renewable electric capacity in 2013 represented more than 25 per cent of the global electric power generating capacity estimated at 6,194 gigawatts for 2013. The overall increase in 2013 is the result of increases in capacities of hydropower, bio-power, geothermal, solar photovoltaic, concentrated solar power and wind.[5] Figure III shows shares of global renewable electric power capacity by renewable source. Large hydropower has the largest capacity share at 52 per cent, followed by wind at 22 per cent and solar photovoltaic at 9 per cent.[6]

Figure III
Shares of global renewable electric power capacity, 2013



Source: UNEP and Bloomberg New Energy Finance, *Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment 2014* (Frankfurt, Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, 2014). Large hydro data were taken from REN21, *Renewables 2014: Global Status Report* (Paris, 2014).
Note: Large hydropower refers to plants with capacities of more than 50 megawatts.

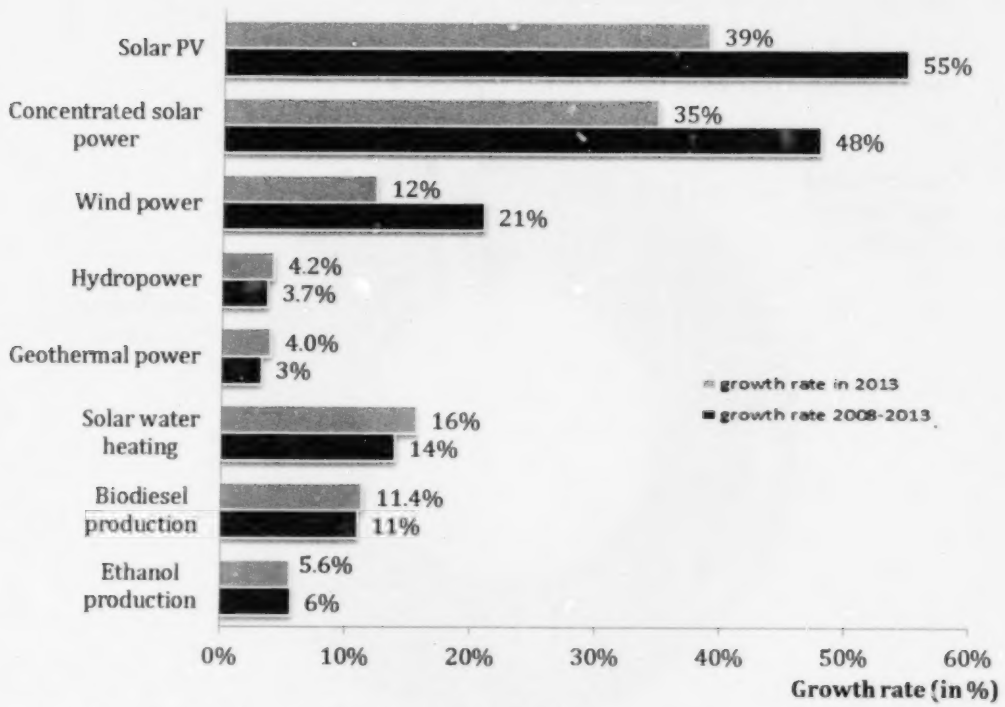
13. The global installed renewable energy capacity without large hydropower amounted to 735 gigawatts in 2013. This new renewable energy capacity accounted for 43.6 per cent of the overall new generating capacity that was installed globally in 2013 from all sources. This increase in renewable energy use avoided a total of 1.2 gigatons of CO_2 emissions.[7]

14. Figure IV shows the annual growth rates of renewable energy capacity and biofuel production for the five-year period 2008-2013 and for the year 2013. Most

[5] Ibid.
[6] Large hydropower in the present report refers to hydropower plants with capacities of more than 50 megawatts.
[7] UNEP and Bloomberg New Energy Finance, *Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment 2014* (Frankfurt, Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, 2014).

new and renewable energy sources grew at an accelerated pace during the 2008-2013 period.

Figure IV
Average annual growth rate of renewable energy capacity and biofuel production, 2008-2013 and 2013



Source: REN21, *Renewables 2014: Global Status Report* (Paris, 2014).
Abbreviations: PV, photovoltaic.

Solar photovoltaic and concentrated solar power experienced the highest growth rates during this period at 55 per cent and 48 per cent, respectively. However, capacity growth in 2013 slowed down for concentrated solar power, solar photovoltaic and wind compared to the last five-year average. In terms of countries' installed capacity, as at the end of 2013, China led the world in total renewable energy, followed by the United States, Germany and Spain.[8] Between 2009 and 2013, Turkey increased its renewable energy capacity the most, growing by 28 per cent. Turkey was followed by the United Kingdom and Italy (both at 25 per cent) and China, the Republic of Korea and South Africa (at 23 per cent over the five-year period).[9]

[8] The Pew Charitable Trusts, *Who's Winning the Clean Energy Race?*, 2013 edition (Philadelphia, 2014).
[9] Ibid.

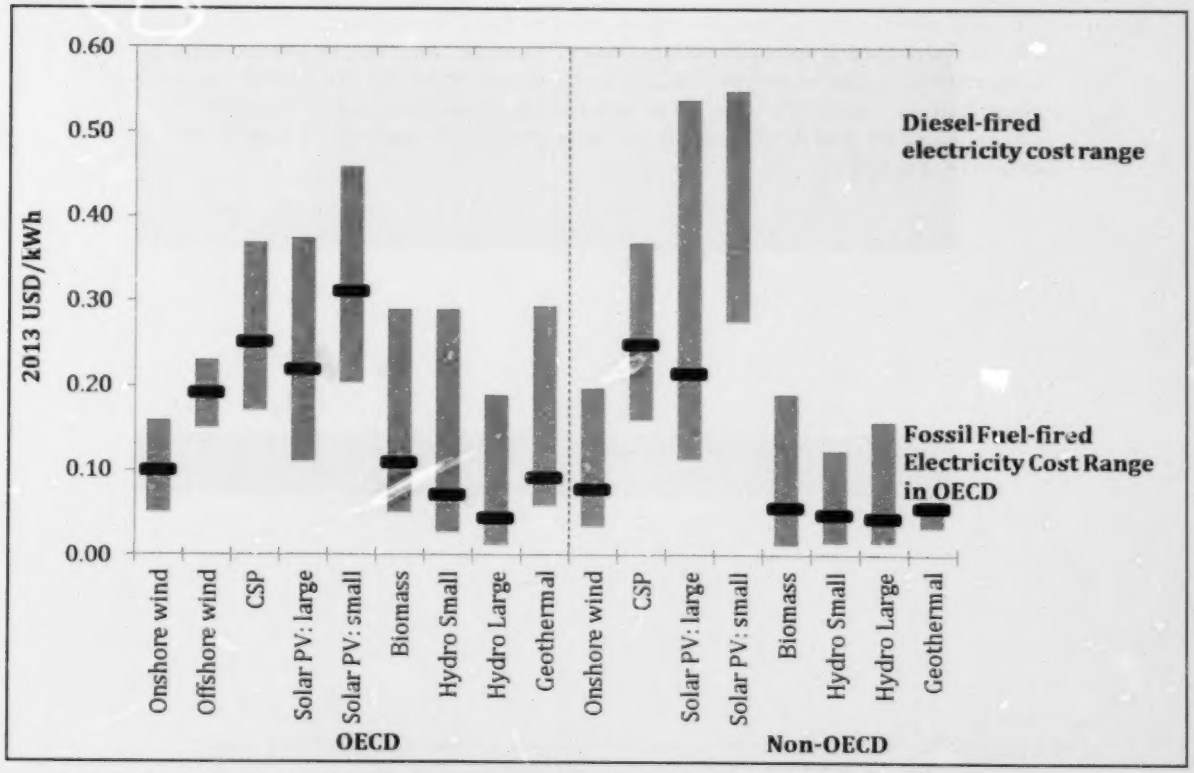
Costs

15. Cost estimate comparisons of energy systems vary considerably and depend on many factors and assumptions. The cost of renewable energy generation depends not only on the technology employed but also on the plant's capacity, location and surrounding infrastructure. The cost-effectiveness of renewable energy technologies in countries and regions depends on the availability of the resource.

16. Figure V presents estimated ranges for electricity generation costs by technology for 2012. The costs are levelized but exclude all subsidies and policy incentives. These costs include equipment cost, performance, balance of system cost, operation, maintenance, fuel/feedstock and the 10 per cent cost of capital across the lifespan of the plant.

17. The cost estimates also exclude transmission and distribution costs. These costs are highly dependent on the existing grid and the size of the power plant. Distributed renewable energy technologies and off-grid systems most often do not require additional transmission investments, while large-scale renewable power production necessitates appropriate grid infrastructure.

Figure V
Electricity cost estimate ranges by technology



Source: International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), renewable cost database, June 2014.
Note: The electricity cost estimates include 10 per cent capital cost.
Abbreviations: USD, United States dollars; kWh, kilowatt-hours; OECD, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; CSP, concentrated solar power; PV, photovoltaic.

18. Renewable energy today represents one of the most cost-effective solutions for off-grid areas and has a cost advantage over diesel-fired power generation. The costs are also competitive, in some cases, with electricity generated with fossil fuels.

19. The highest cost reductions over the past five years took place in the solar photovoltaic sector, with levelized cost decreases of 34 per cent for thin-film photovoltaic, 53 per cent for crystalline silicon photovoltaic and 49 per cent for crystalline silicon photovoltaic with tracking.[10]

20. Onshore wind is now about 15 per cent less costly than five years ago and comparable to combined-cycle gas turbines or coal-fired power plants. Offshore wind, on the other hand, experienced a 41 per cent increase in costs per megawatt-hour.[11] Solar thermal electricity generation and concentrated solar thermal power have seen only minor cost improvements.[12]

21. Owing to the decreasing cost of renewable energy technologies, record levels of new renewable energy capacity were installed in the last two years, while absolute investment dropped.

22. Figure VI shows the typical capital cost ranges for electricity for each technology. Capital cost refers to the total installed costs, which vary between countries and regions.

23. The average capital cost for onshore wind projects, for instance, is lower in the United States than in the other member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). In China and India, the same plant type is about half as capital-intensive, since wind turbines are produced at lower costs. Capital costs are also determined by the local labour cost, maturity of markets and incentive structures.[13]

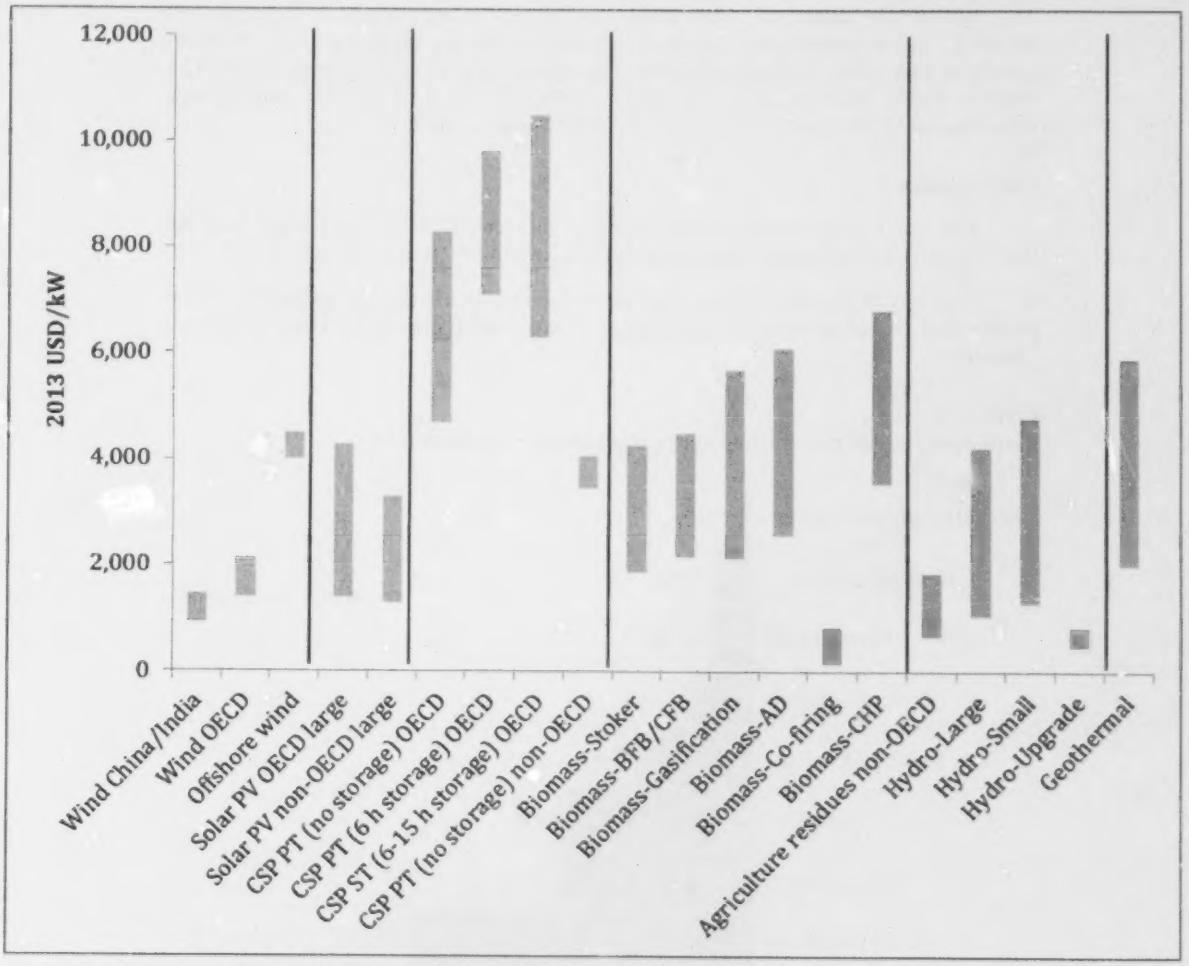
[10] UNEP and Bloomberg New Energy Finance, *Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment 2014* (Frankfurt, Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, 2014).

[11] Ibid.

[12] Ibid.

[13] International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), *Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2012: An Overview* (Abu Dhabi), 2013.

Figure VI
Typical capital cost ranges by technology



Source: IRENA, renewable cost database, June 2014.

Abbreviations: USD, United States dollars; kW, kilowatts; OECD, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; CSP PT, concentrated solar power parabolic trough; CSP ST, concentrated solar power solar thermal; PV, photovoltaic; PT, parabolic trough; BFB, bubbling fluidized bed; CFB, circulating fluidized bed; AD, anaerobic digestion; CHP, combined heat and power.

24. The price of conventional power generation has increased over the past five years owing to labour expenses and the cost of steel and, in the nuclear sector, extensive safety reviews. The natural gas market in the United States is an exception owing to its rapid development resulting from increased shale production. Natural gas prices in Europe and Asia are about twice as high as prices in the United States.

25. The decrease in renewable energy production costs has also triggered reduced subsidies in the sector. Germany's feed-in tariff for ground-mounted solar photovoltaic projects decreased from 35 euro cents per kilowatt-hour in 2008 to

9.38 euro cents per kilowa -hour in 2014. The United Kingdom has undergone similar developments.[14]

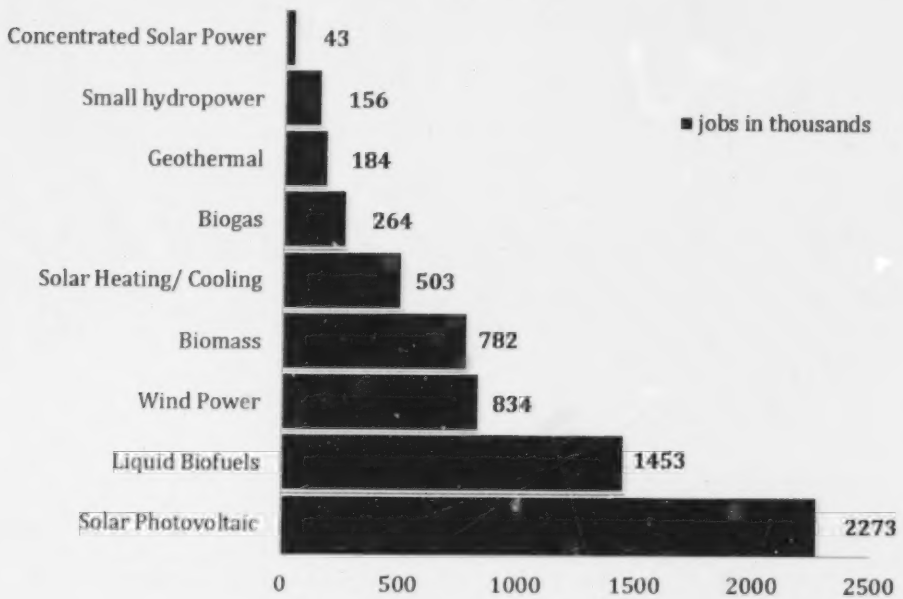
26. While the share of renewables in electricity production is continuously growing, the situation in non-power sectors is less encouraging. The transport sector, in particular, is lagging behind. The growth rate of conventional biofuel use slowed down between 2011 and 2013. Only 2.5 per cent of the total energy consumption in transport was covered by renewables in 2010.[15]

Employment

27. The latest estimates of employment in the renewable energy sector indicate that currently 6.5 million people work directly and indirectly for the industry.[16]

28. Figure VII shows the distribution of jobs in the different industries. Solar photovoltaic leads in terms of employment creation with almost 2.3 million workers globally.

Figure VII
Estimated jobs in renewable energy worldwide by industry, 2013



Source: IRENA, *Renewable Energy and Jobs Annual Review 2014* (Abu Dhabi, 2014).

29. Employment remains concentrated in the same countries as in previous years. More than a third of all renewable energy jobs are located in China, with 2.6 million. The European Union is second with 1.1 million, followed by Brazil, the United States and India. Germany alone has 371,000 jobs, and Spain 114,000.

[14] Ibid.
[15] IRENA, *Road Transport: The Cost of Renewable Solutions* (Abu Dhabi, 2013).
[16] IRENA, *Renewable Energy and Jobs Annual Review 2014* (Abu Dhabi, 2014).

30. Germany, France and Italy suffered job losses in the solar photovoltaic industry, while the rest of the European Union experienced employment creation, mostly in solid biomass, and to a smaller extent also in liquid biofuels, biogas and the geothermal industry.

31. Brazil has seen the most employment in the field of bioenergy, while 1.6 million people were employed by the Chinese solar photovoltaic industry.

Other factors affecting renewable energy growth

32. In 2012, global fossil fuel subsidies expanded to $544 billion[17] from $523 billion in 2011. Factoring in externalities, fossil fuel subsidies have been estimated at $1.9 trillion.[18] Fossil fuel subsidies hamper renewable energy development and create an uneven playing field. Externalities from conventional energy sources are not factored into their price, which distorts markets and hinders new entrants. Overcoming these market imbalances requires coherent policies and a reduction of fossil fuel subsidies. In 2009, the Group of 20 committed itself to phasing out fossil fuel subsidies and reinforced the decision at the finance ministers' meeting in February 2013.

33. Renewable energy subsidies can help new technologies penetrate markets and create economies of scale. However, many countries are currently cutting back on renewable energy subsidies owing to their individual economic and political considerations.

34. Unconventional gas is expected to play an important role in future global energy systems. Based on recent assessments, 137 unconventional gas formations in 41 countries have been discovered. Geological conditions, regulatory frameworks and market conditions will determine the rate and pace of development in each region.[19] The positive cost development of unconventional fuel exploitation is slowing down renewable energy investments.

35. Following the Fukushima nuclear accident, several countries introduced plans to scale back their nuclear power generation. The United States, the European Union and China conducted safety reviews. A rapid nuclear phase-out, as envisaged in Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Japan, might lead to increased fossil fuel and renewable energy use.

B. Investments

36. Global investment in renewable energy decreased for the second consecutive year in 2013, amounting to $214 billion. This constitutes a 14 per cent decrease from 2012 and a 23 per cent decrease from 2011.[20]

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[17] OECD/International Energy Agency (IEA), "World Energy Outlook 2013 Factsheet" (Paris, 2013).

[18] REN21, *Renewables 2013: Global Status Report* (Paris, 2013).

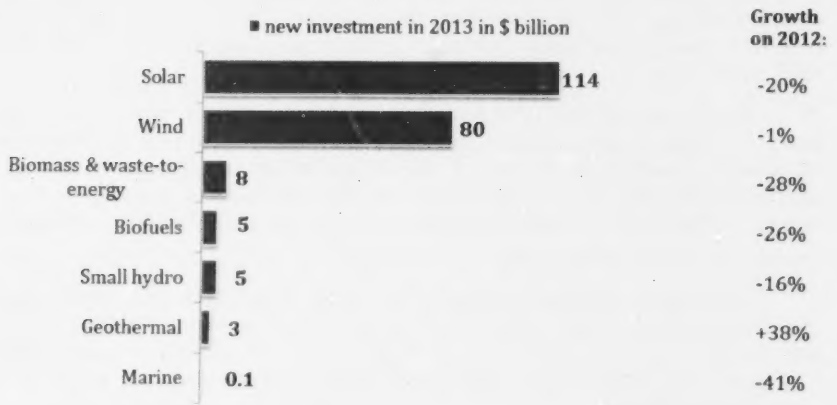
[19] OECD/IEA, *World Energy Outlook 2013* (Paris, 2013); REN21, *Renewables 2013: Global Status Report* (Paris, 2013).

[20] UNEP and Bloomberg New Energy Finance, *Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment 2014* (Frankfurt, Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, 2014). Please note that the investment figures from this source do not cover large hydropower. This source notes that large hydropower technology "has been mature for decades and is at a very different stage of its roll-out than, for instance, wind or solar".

37. The slowing of investment rates was partly due to policy uncertainty, high prices of feedstock and decreased technology costs. Prices for solar systems dropped steeply, resulting in the installation of a record amount of solar photovoltaic capacity in 2013. The 39 gigawatts added that year came at a lower cost than the 31 gigawatts built in 2012. The prices of publicly traded clean energy shares improved by 54 per cent. This development facilitated equity raising. Public market equity increased 201 per cent, while venture capital decreased by 46 per cent and asset finance by 13 per cent.

38. Figure VIII shows new investments in renewable energy in 2013 and net changes from the year 2012. Investments decreased in all types of renewable energy except for geothermal. Investments in solar decreased by 20 per cent, biofuel investments decreased by 26 per cent, reaching a nine-year low, while biomass and waste-to-energy investments fell by 28 per cent. Geothermal increased by 38 per cent and investments in wind energy remained relatively stable.[21]

Figure VIII
Global new investment in renewable energy in 2013 and per cent change from 2012



Source: UNEP and Bloomberg New Energy Finance, *Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment 2014* (Frankfurt, Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, 2014).

39. China, once again, led the top five renewable energy investors in 2013, followed by the United States and Japan. Over the past five years, investment grew fastest in South Africa (96 per cent), followed by Japan (57 per cent), Australia (32 per cent) and the United Kingdom (18 per cent).[22]

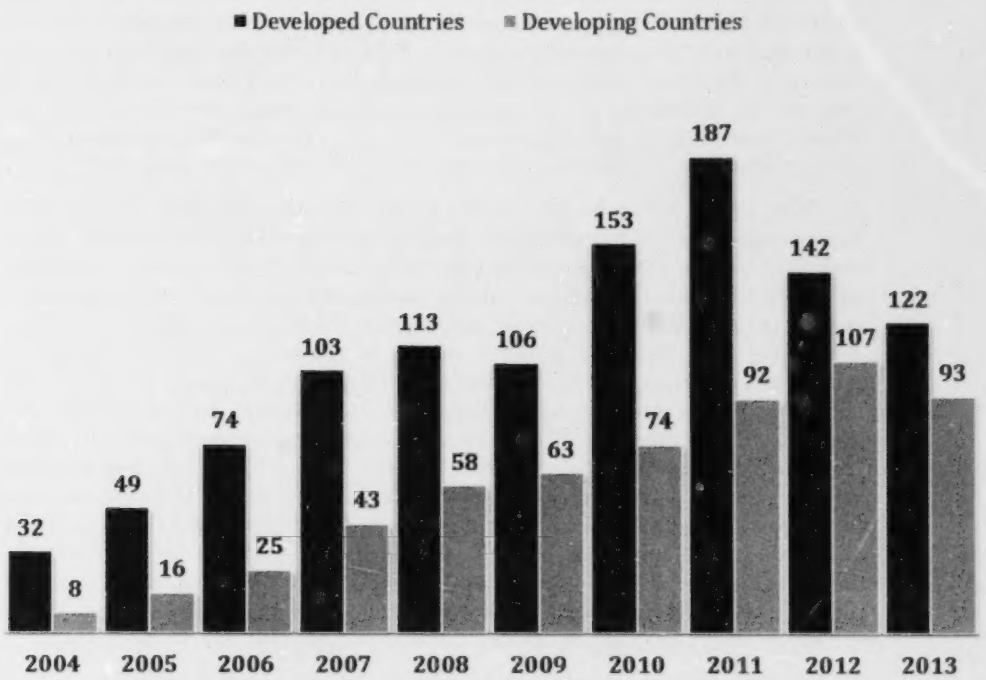
40. For the first time in eight years, investments in developing economies fell by 14 per cent. Nevertheless, China overtook Europe in its total spending. The Americas and Asia-Oceania saw an overall rise in investments.

[21] Ibid.

[22] The Pew Charitable Trusts, *Who's Winning the Clean Energy Race?*, 2013 edition (Philadelphia, 2014).

41. Figure IX shows global new investment in renewable energy for developing and developed countries for the years 2004-2013. Developing countries increased their share in global renewable energy investment in 2012, to a record 46 per cent compared to 34 per cent in the previous year. Along with China, South Africa and Morocco emerged as active performers. On the other hand, developed economies experienced a sharp fall in 2012 owing to lower investment in the United States and Germany.[15]

Figure IX
Global new investment in renewable energy
(Billions of United States dollars)



Source: UNEP and Bloomberg New Energy Finance, *Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment 2014* (Frankfurt, Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, 2014).

III. Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

A. Sustainable Energy for All

42. Extraordinary progress has been achieved since 2011, when the Secretary-General's initiative on "Sustainable Energy for All" was launched and the General Assembly declared 2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All.[23] Remarkable support and ample mobilization by many stakeholders are helping to

[23] For more information, please see www.se4all.org.

move forward at an accelerated pace the three major global objectives of the initiative: ensuring universal access to modern energy services, doubling the rate of improvement in energy efficiency and doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030. The initiative is now being guided by an Advisory Board co-chaired by the Secretary-General and the President of the World Bank. The Board includes over 40 eminent persons from government, business, civil society and international organizations. In June 2013, the Secretary-General appointed Kandeh K. Yumkella as his Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All and Chief Executive of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

43. The United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, 2014-2024, is expected to generate further support and momentum. In declaring the Decade in its resolution 67/215, the General-Assembly recognized the importance and urgency of tackling the global energy challenges for achieving the critical objectives of poverty eradication and sustainable development. This followed the declaration by world leaders at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that "we are all determined to act to make sustainable energy for all a reality and, through this, help to eradicate poverty and lead to sustainable development and global prosperity" (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, para. 129).

44. One of the main outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development was the agreement by Member States to develop an integrated set of "sustainable development goals" to carry forward and further expand the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals, broadening the scope to incorporate all critical issues affecting sustainable development. In the framework of this effort, a stand-alone and dedicated goal on energy is being considered to confirm the importance of energy as a key enabler of sustainable development for all countries and all people. A sustainable development goal for energy and its corresponding targets will promote global awareness of energy challenges and will further facilitate long-term public and financial support, especially for new and renewable sources of energy. The work of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative facilitated the discussions on a sustainable development goal for energy and will represent an important starting reference point for the pursuit of this goal and corresponding targets. Given the right set-up, the Sustainable Energy for All initiative could also present a useful framework for the implementation and tracking of progress towards achieving energy goals and targets as part of the sustainable development goals.

45. In June 2014, the first annual Sustainable Energy for All Forum was organized to assess progress on sustainable energy since the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 and to celebrate the first year of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All. The Forum was a very successful event that brought together more than 1,000 leaders from all sectors and countries, including more than 20 attendants at a ministerial level or above. As the focal point of a global network, it provided a valuable meeting place and platform for showcasing success stories and best practices, presenting new commitments, catalysing actions and helping shape the global energy debate for the next decade. A major campaign on energy, women and children and health was also launched at the same event. The next Forum will be held in New York in 2015.

46. By mid-2014, 83 developing countries had "opted in" and joined the efforts of Sustainable Energy for All. Country action plans are under way in almost 30 countries and a total of 43 rapid assessments or gap analyses have been carried

out. Progress is being reported by many countries, including Brazil, Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leona and Nicaragua. Some of the progress in the different countries results from partnerships with institutions or initiatives such as the World Bank, the International Energy and Climate Initiative (Energy+), the United Nations Foundation and the Inter-American Development Bank.

47. During the 2014 Forum, many partners of Sustainable Energy for All provided progress updates and showcased success stories. These included Bank of America, the African Development Bank, Power Africa, the European Commission, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Energy and Resources Institute, the OPEC Fund for International Development and Eni S.p.A.

48. Another accomplishment is the Sustainable Energy for All global tracking framework. This is a global data platform and monitoring system designed to allow rigorous and transparent monitoring of progress towards the three major Sustainable Energy for All objectives through 2030. A consortium of 15 agencies co-led by the World Bank and the International Energy Agency (IAE) produced the first report of the global tracking framework in 2013 and is planning regular updates from 2015 onward.

49. As a contribution to the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, IRENA released the study entitled *REmap 2030: A Renewable Energy Roadmap*. Under current policies, the share of renewables in total final energy consumption will only increase to 21 per cent by 2030. *REmap 2030*, however, demonstrates that it is affordable and feasible with current technology to double the share of renewable energy by 2030. In fact, when accounting for externalities such as climate change and human health, cost savings would be incurred. The *REmap 2030* results are based on real-life analysis encompassing 26 countries which represent three-quarters of current energy demand. *REmap 2030* determines the realistic potential for countries, regions and the world to scale up renewables in order to ensure a sustainable energy future and underscores the pivotal importance of international cooperation and action in the power generation, building, transport and industry sectors to advance this goal.[24]

B. National efforts

50. By early 2014, 138 countries had renewable energy policies in place, as compared to 127 in 2013. More than two thirds of these countries were developing countries or emerging economies.[25]

51. Policymakers in many countries recognize the benefits of renewable energy and its positive impact on energy access, particularly as off-grid and mini-grid solutions in rural and remote areas. Such solutions serve as enablers for health care, food security, water access, education, gender equality and job creation.

52. The most-used renewable energy policy is the feed-in tariff that is now in place in 71 countries. Also common are quotas, known as renewable portfolio standards. These are used in 22 countries and on the subnational level also in the United States, Canada and India. Another policy option is renewable energy

[24] IRENA, *REmap 2030: A Renewable Energy Roadmap* (Abu Dhabi, 2014).
[25] REN21, *Renewables 2014: Global Status Report* (Paris, 2014).

certificates. These are often used in conjunction with renewable portfolio standards. Since 2012, Norway and Sweden have jointly established a green certificate market, while Australia has decreased the number of certificates by 50 per cent.

53. Many countries also employ fiscal incentives to mediate the barriers that hinder renewable energy deployment and investments. For example, Cameroon exempted renewable energy products from the value added tax and Madagascar decreased the import taxes on renewable energy equipment by 50 per cent.

54. While countries around the world provide financial support to renewable energy projects and technology development, many have cut back their renewable energy subsidies in recent years, including China, the United Kingdom and Estonia. Spain and the Czech Republic cut all financial support in 2012.

55. Several existing renewal energy targets were set to be achieved by 2012, which led to a host of new commitments and adjusted targets. India met its wind energy targets and introduced a five-year plan doubling the renewable capacity by 2017. India will add 5.6 gigawatts thermal of solar water heating capacity by 2017, and the newly-elected Prime Minister announced the electrification of rural areas, intended to bring solar power to 400 million people by 2022.[26]

56. Japan is developing its wave and tidal capacity. China has set a target of 9.5 per cent of primary energy consumption to be generated from renewable sources. In China the new renewable electricity capacity exceeded for the first time the new fossil fuel and nuclear capacities. China has committed over $67 billion in investments in renewable energy.

57. The Economic Community of West African States is now operating under a regional renewable energy policy and aims to achieve 10 per cent renewables in the electricity mix by 2020 and 19 per cent by 2030.

58. In the European Union, the new renewable electric capacity has had the largest share of all forms of new electric capacity built in the last six consecutive years. Austria has the ambitious target of 85 per cent of electricity consumption to be satisfied by renewables in 2020. Denmark will generate 50 per cent of total electricity consumption in 2020 with wind. Denmark also banned in 2013 the use of fossil fuel-fired boilers in new buildings, aiming to have renewables generating 40 per cent of the heat supply by 2020. France's international development support strategy includes the use of 2 billion euros for developing countries for renewable energy and energy efficiency for the next three years.

59. In the Americas, Mexico increased its target to 35 per cent of electricity from renewable sources by 2026. In Nicaragua, the National Sustainable Electrification and Renewable Energy Programme, with international financial support, electrified 36,300 households in 2013 and is aiming to increase electricity access from 72 per cent in 2012 to 85 per cent in 2016.

60. The United States announced in 2013 the Power Africa initiative to double the number of people with access to power in sub-Saharan Africa. Power Africa is working with partners in six focus countries (Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria and the United Republic of Tanzania). The objective is to add more than

[26] Clean Technica, "Narendra modi plans to bring solar to 400 million people, electrify rural India", 26 May 2014. Available from http://cleantechnica.com/2014/05/26/narendra-modi-plans-bring-solar-400-million-people-electrify-rural-india//. Retrieved 10 June 2014.

10,000 megawatts of clean, efficient electricity generating capacity. For the first five years, the United States Government has committed more than $7 billion in financial support and loan guarantees. A sub-initiative called Beyond the Grid is designed to drive investments specifically for off-grid and small-scale energy solutions. This public-private partnership will leverage $1 billion in investments over five years to bring renewable solutions to communities in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, the United States in collaboration with industry is developing modular wind and solar energy systems through the Remote Community Renewable Energy Partnership. These compact systems are designed to work in isolated communities. They could replace inefficient and expensive diesel generators.

61. The solar plan of Egypt moved forward by setting its concentrated solar power target at 2,800 megawatts by 2027 and its solar photovoltaic target at 700 megawatts. In Ethiopia in 2013, with international support, 23,000 solar home systems were installed and 2.5 million advanced cookstoves were sold. Ghana has set a goal of 10 per cent renewable electricity generation in the national generation by 2020. The Morocco energy strategy includes creating a diverse mix of reliable and competitive technologies, mobilizing renewable energy and other natural resources and promoting energy efficiency and effective integration into the regional energy system. The target share of renewable energy in the electric supply is 42 per cent by 2020. An institute of solar energy has been established, as well as renewable energy and energy efficiency networks, within institutes of higher education.

62. Belarus has planned the commissioning in the coming years of 160 additional sites that will generate power from renewable energy, 38 biogas facilities and construction and restoration of 33 hydropower stations. The national programme for development of local and renewable sources of energy for 2011-2015 includes the construction of wind installations (440-460 megawatts), 126 heat pumps and geothermal energy with total capacity of 8.9 megawatts and 172 solar water heaters and solar plants. Under the existing assessments, the implementation of the above programmes will result by 2015 in a two-fold increase of the use of renewable sources of energy.

63. Saudi Arabia will install at least 70 stations nationwide to measure the ability to produce electricity from sun, wind, geothermal and waste sources and plans to attract about $109 billion to create a solar industry that will generate a third of its electricity by 2032, or about 41,000 megawatts.

64. A growing number of cities, States and regions are committing themselves to a transition to 100 per cent renewable energy in individual sectors of the economy or in the economy as a whole. Djibouti, Scotland and Tuvalu are planning to generate their electricity requirements from 100 per cent renewable energy. British Columbia, Canada introduced a 100 per cent clean electricity standard for all new investments in electricity.

65. Stimulating rural off-grid renewable energy alternatives has been an area of focus for numerous countries. Among other efforts, Bangladesh is targeting 150,000 biogas digesters by 2016 and 2.5 million solar photovoltaic systems by 2015; Benin plans to achieve 50 per cent rural electrification by 2025; the target in Colombia is 30 per cent by 2030; Lesotho is aiming for 35 per cent rural electrification by 2020; and Uganda plans to have 100,000 biogas digesters installed by 2017.

C. International institutional efforts

66. Organizations of the United Nations system continue to support the promotion and expansion of new and renewable sources of energy in developing countries. The Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative has brought attention and awareness to the important issues of universal energy access, energy efficiency and the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy.

67. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is involved in many activities promoting the use of new and renewable sources of energy. One of its main initiatives is the creation of a hub for decentralized energy solutions designed to focus capacities and resources from all agencies on off-grid areas. UNDP provides technical assistance to develop sustainable energy solutions, particularly decentralized energy options to expand bottom-up approaches to sectors such as education, health, agriculture, youth employment, small enterprises and rural and urban housing. Through its programme on promoting access to clean and affordable energy systems and services, UNDP promotes distributed clean energy systems, focusing mainly on sustainable use of biomass and other renewable energies, delivering on-grid and off-grid electricity solutions and providing clean fuel for heating and cooking. UNDP support for the 2014-2024 Decade of Sustainable Energy for All includes the establishment of national targets and policy frameworks for renewable energy and development of regulatory frameworks that provide technical regulations and conditions for the installation of renewable energy generation plants and their connection to the grid. Other areas of support include generating methodologies for calculating costs for renewables-based electricity and standardized contract modalities for buying back electricity from renewable energy generation.

68. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) are collaborating on the Global Atlas for Renewable Energy by identifying and facilitating access to available datasets from WMO programmes. In the context of the Global Framework for Climate Services, WMO and IRENA have initiated a multi-stakeholder initiative to define the needs and requirements of the energy sector for climate services. Owing to their sensitivity to climatic factors, renewables are a particular focus of this effort. WMO advises on a modern, inter-operable data management system involving archiving and data service facilities to support the work of IRENA on renewable energy potentials, climate variability impacts and long-term sustainability and variability of renewable energy resources. One potential area for future WMO contributions is the implementation and maintenance of the land-based, marine-based and space-based observing programmes that will inform decision makers on energy potential at various sites, and therefore on appropriate sites for installation of potential renewable energy technologies.

69. The efforts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) focus on the Energy-Smart Food for People and Climate programme and the work on sustainable bioenergy. The energy-smart food systems programme promotes improved energy efficiency and diverse energy sources with gradual increase in the use of renewable energy in agriculture and food chains.

70. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has provided support to countries on promoting new and renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency

measures along three main work streams: assessments and analysis enabling science-based decisions considering the country-specific context; policy tools to design and implement an enabling framework for the uptake of sustainable energy technologies; and innovative finance and risk management for sustainable energy technologies, goods and services in developing countries. The UNEP Medium-Term Strategy 2014-2017 includes programmes on renewable energy, energy efficiency and decentralized energy solutions, among others. These are to be achieved through a transition to an inclusive green economy.

71. The World Health Organization (WHO) has the global household energy database, which serves as the baseline for Sustainable Energy for All tracking of home energy transitions and health impacts.[27] WHO focuses its work on the co-benefits of clean energy. WHO is documenting access to clean and renewable energy in the health-care sector at the national level. It has been raising awareness about benefits of renewable energy in health-care facilities. WHO prepared air quality guidelines for household fuel combustion to provide guidance on safe and renewable energy technologies to policymakers.

72. A recent study by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) suggests that up to 21 per cent of all final energy use and feedstock in the manufacturing industry in 2050 can be of renewable origin; numerous business opportunities thus exist for a greater share of renewable energy in the energy mix. UNIDO currently has 50 active renewable energy projects in 35 countries and 20 projects in the planning stages. Its renewable energy programme promotes productive or income and growth-generating activities through mainstreaming the use of renewable energy in industrial applications. UNIDO has launched several multi-stakeholder initiatives such as the green industry initiative and platform and the clean technology programme for small and medium-sized enterprises. The UNIDO technology facilitation mechanisms include the global network of resource-efficient and cleaner production centres or RECP*net*, international technology centres, investment and technology and promotion offices, and centres for South-South industrial cooperation.

73. The work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) focuses on energy commodity development, greening international trade and decarbonizing the clean energy commodity supply chains. To this end, UNCTAD has introduced the energy commodity development programme, the natural resources information exchange and the biofuel initiative. UNCTAD works to address a number of issues, including obstacles to renewable energy trade and investment such as border energy tariffs and subsidies; the effect of government intervention on energy efficiency and prices; creating a level playing field between high-carbon and low-carbon investment alternatives; regional integration through grid interconnection for energy security; market-grid access for low-carbon technologies; and regional cooperation in the area of infrastructure investment, operations and management. Also, UNCTAD continues to work actively on promoting international cooperation and developing country participation in renewable energy sectors such as biofuels.

74. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) developed a project on strengthening South-South cooperation to increase the

[27] See www.who.int/indoorair/health_impacts/he_database/en/index.html.

affordability of sustainable energy options in Asia and the Pacific. ESCAP is working on the creation of the Asian Energy Highway, an integrated regional grid that will support diversification within the energy generation mix. ESCAP is implementing a multi-year project to widen access to modern energy services for rural communities through the pro-poor public-private partnership for rural development.

75. The outcome document of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Energy Forum in identified advancing the development and utilization of renewable energy as one of 15 areas of action. A regional hub for Sustainable Energy for All was launched at the Forum to facilitate realization of the initiative's objectives.

76. The work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) on sustainable energy focuses on access to energy services, sustainable consumption and production and the promotion of renewable energy. ESCWA organized The second Arab Forum for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, focused on enhancing the role of small and medium enterprises in promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency, in collaboration with several international organizations. The Forum initiated a regional dialogue on the development and use of renewable energy, including in rural and remote areas. ESCWA has a projects on enhancing and improving access to energy services through development of public-private renewable energy partnerships. In addition, ESCWA will be implementing a United Nations Development Account project on promoting renewable energy investments for climate change mitigation and sustainable development. Furthermore, a renewable energy training centre sited in a rural area of Lebanon is being developed, to be equipped with operational models of different renewable energy technologies appropriate for rural areas.

77. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat leads a public-private partnership initiative on minimum electricity access that supports the electrification of rural isolated communities with new and renewable energy sources. In 2013, the Department conducted a global conference on capacity development for rural energy access. Follow-up activities resulting from this event are promoting the use of renewable energy in rural areas of a number of developing countries.

78. The strategy of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) includes assistance to Member States in enhancing the use of renewable energy technologies through effective policies and institutional frameworks. UNESCO launched the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme. Under this programme, annual summer schools on renewable energy training are organized in Africa, South-East Asia and Central and Eastern Europe. UNESCO partnered with the Barefoot College to provide solar energy training that targets empowering women in rural communities in Africa. The Renewable Energy Futures for UNESCO Sites initiative promotes the use of UNESCO biosphere reserves and World Heritage sites as field observatories on the sustainable use of renewable energy sources. Another project launched by UNESCO is "Solar electrification of rural schools", which is designed to address energy access in Sub-Saharan African countries using solar energy systems.

79. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) focuses on several energy areas, including renewable energy technologies in the urban energy mix. To this end, UN-Habitat has projects on (a) designing and implementing pilot

renewable energy projects to enhance pro-poor access to water and sanitation; (b) promoting biogas in public institutions such as schools, prisons, hospitals and public spaces; (c) developing multi-functional clean energy centres, including a multitude of renewable energy technologies; (d) producing best-practice casebooks and technology roadmaps for renewable energy use in human settlements; and (e) designing sustainable municipal solid waste management systems, with an emphasis on producing energy from waste.

80. The European Union announced the Energizing Development initiative that will provide access to sustainable energy services to 500 million people by 2030. By 2014, 10.33 million people were provided with sustainable energy access, as well as just under 12,000 institutions and more than 24,000 businesses. The Dutch-German-Norwegian-Australian-British-Swiss partnership has committed 245.8 million euros to the budget.

81. The European Commission has awarded 95 million euros in grants to energy access projects in Africa. Co-financing amounts to 155 million euros and will provide electricity access to 2 million people. Another commitment for 3 billion euros for projects in 30 countries is under way.

82. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) works towards mainstreaming renewable energy options and strategies in energy plans, increasing global access to renewable energy knowledge and improving policy frameworks and enabling market conditions for accelerated deployment of renewable energy. IRENA also works to facilitate regional cooperation, transform island energy systems and contribute to sustainable livelihoods through access to renewable energy. Its costing and energy policy analyses have collected real-world cost and performance data of over 9,000 utility-scale projects and some 200,000 small-scale solar photovoltaic systems. Its study on adapting renewable energy policies to dynamic market conditions supports policymakers in creating long-term support policies to promote the long-term transition to renewable sources and technologies. The Global Atlas for Renewable Energy is the largest free global database of the most comprehensive information on renewable energy resource potentials. Developed in partnership with a wide range of countries and other stakeholders, the Atlas is growing to include all sources of renewable energy. The IRENA renewables readiness assessment is a country-driven process for assessing key policies, potentials and technologies for renewable energy deployment and the actions necessary to create an enabling policy and decision-making framework. The *Renewable Energy and Jobs Annual Review 2014* presents the current status of employment for renewable energy technologies. To address growing needs in the renewable energy jobs market, IRENA also developed the Renewable Energy Learning Partnership, a global platform providing free access to all renewable energy education and information. IRENA is cooperating with the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development to facilitate project financing in developing countries. In 2014, IRENA awarded a total of $41 million in loans to six projects in Ecuador, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Samoa and Sierra Leone.

83. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) works with poor rural communities to increase at scale the demand for clean energy products by linking access to energy to agriculture-related activities. Their projects include micro hydropower in Nepal, jatropha biofuel in Mali and solar-powered drip irrigation in northern Benin.

International finance institutions

84. International financial institutions continue to play an important role in mobilizing resources for the promotion of new and renewable energy. Multilateral development banks are committing more than $30 billion towards achieving the three goals of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

85. The World Bank Group has committed to doubling the leverage of its energy financing and to providing technical assistance to several Sustainable Energy for All opt-in countries. The World Bank Group has launched a global Sustainable Energy for All technical assistance programme, with $15 million of funding from the Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme (ESMAP). It will provide support to five countries in sub-Saharan Africa to expand energy access and build a portfolio of investment-ready projects. Other initiatives include the ESMAP effort to identify renewable resource "hot spots" for solar, wind, biomass and small hydropower potential through its renewable energy mapping programme. In 2012, the World Bank Group supported renewable energy projects with a total of $8.2 billion. Other World Bank-supported programs include: (a) delivering electricity by solar photovoltaic panels to 1.4 million low income rural households in Bangladesh with financing from the International Development Association (IDA); (b) expanding electricity services to 4,300 towns and villages in Ethiopia through three IDA credits over five years; and (c) supporting an electricity rollout programme in partnership with the Government of Rwanda that tripled electricity connections from 2009 to 2012. On the analytical side, the World Bank Group led a team of experts from 15 agencies to produce the 2013 *Sustainable Energy for All Global Tracking Framework Report*.

86. The African Development Bank will invest $20 billion in energy by 2030. Investments range from regional to small- and medium-scale energy projects to increase electricity access in rural regions, including through its Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa. Its Africa Renewable Energy Fund was ramped up to $100 million by February 2014. The Bank has approved $2 billion for projects and mobilized $4.5 billion in co-financing since the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.[28]

87. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development committed $8 billion to sustainable energy financing and is expected to exceed that number by the end of the year.[29] More than 300 projects were implemented in the past in Central and Eastern Europe and the southern and eastern Mediterranean, avoiding 19.6 million tons of CO_2 annually.

88. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has invested over $1.2 billion in more than 200 renewable energy projects in almost 100 developing countries and economies in transition. These investments have been augmented by an additional $8.3 billion in co-financing. The GEF has contributed to the installation of more than 3 gigawatts of electric capacity and 2.8 gigawatts of thermal capacity based on renewable energy. Since 2012, the climate change focal area of GEF has approved $37 million for rural electrification, renewable energy, energy efficiency and low-carbon city development projects.

89. The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) CleanStart programme provides microfinancing to low-income households for clean energy

[28] Sustainable Energy for All, "SE4All results and deliverables: Partners making progress" (www.se4all.org/2014/06/04/se4all-results-deliverables-partners-making-progress-2/).

[29] Ibid.

solutions. The objective is to provide 2.5 million people with cleaner, more efficient energy by 2017. The programme has a budget of $60 million that can potentially reduce 300,000 tons of CO_2.

90. The Scaling-Up Renewable Energy Programme for Low-Income Countries approved grants to Armenia and Solomon Islands for the preparation of their investment plans. The Programme received $26 million in additional funds from Sweden, which also increased contributions to the Adaptation Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund.

IV. Conclusions

91. New and renewable sources of energy are perceived now globally as important and valuable options for energy supply and as key resources for addressing global challenges, including universal energy access, energy security, climate change and ultimately poverty eradication and sustainable development.

92. Continuing technological advances and rapid deployment of renewable energy systems in many developed and developing countries have demonstrated their potential to satisfy energy requirements and successfully replace alternative energy sources.

93. The Sustainable Energy for All initiative has made remarkable progress in promoting new and renewable sources of energy over the past years and is leading the international community into a major transformation of energy systems.

94. The resolution declaring 2014-2024 the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All is already triggering supporting projects and programmes by many Member States, United Nations agencies and international organizations. Integrated strategic programmes and partnerships are being created to reach the global objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All will work towards putting in place long-term institutional arrangements in support of the initiative, both within and outside the United Nations, including the establishment of an "international not-for-profit" organization and appropriate arrangements.

95. As renewable energy markets and industries mature, new opportunities arise, but at the same time different challenges and uncertainties appear. The last two years have seen declining investments owing to the international economic crisis, changes in national policy environments and potential competition from new discoveries of unconventional fossil fuel resources.

96. Nevertheless, 2013 and 2014 have seen a continuous increase in global renewable energy use and in the number of countries with renewable energy targets and supporting policies.

97. However, much more needs to be done to make the growth in renewable energy self-sustaining and to pursue the accelerated deployment necessary to achieve critical universal goals.

98. In order to limit emissions from energy generation and to support the transition to clean energy systems, there is a need to increase investments in renewable energy deployment and development and improve energy infrastructure and energy efficiency.

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Sixty-ninth session
Item 74 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the International Criminal Court

Information relevant to the implementation of article 3 of the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 68/305, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to include information relevant to the implementation of article 3 of the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court in a report to be submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

* A/69/150.

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1. Article 3 of the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court provides as follows: "The United Nations and the Court agree that, with a view to facilitating the effective discharge of their respective responsibilities, they shall cooperate closely, whenever appropriate, with each other and consult each other on matters of mutual interest pursuant to the provisions of the present Agreement and in conformity with the respective provisions of the Charter and the Statute."

2. During the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, the United Nations cooperated extensively with the Court pursuant to the provisions of the Relationship Agreement.

3. In the field of institutional relations, addressed in chapter II of the Relationship Agreement, the United Nations provided to the Court a range of services and facilities, including reimbursable loans; satellite communications services; payroll costs for staff assigned to work exclusively on matters pertaining to the Court; access to the United Nations System Electronic Information Acquisitions Consortium; field security services; air and ground transportation services for Court personnel and equipment; provision of laissez-passer and certificates; and training services, including access to language proficiency examinations for Court staff members. The services were all provided on a reimbursable basis in accordance with the Relationship Agreement and General Assembly resolution 58/318.

4. In the field of cooperation and judicial assistance, which is addressed in chapter III of the Agreement, the Organization provided extensive assistance to the Court in the period under review, in particular in the form of access to the Organization's records and archives and the making available of a number of United Nations personnel for interview by the prosecution in connection with certain situations before the Court and with certain situations under preliminary examination by the Prosecutor. No requests for testimony by United Nations personnel were received during the reporting period. In addition, the Organization provided input to the Prosecutor on her draft policy paper on sexual and gender-based crimes. A Court-wide memorandum of understanding for cooperation between the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali and the Court was concluded and is in the process of being signed.

5. During the reporting period, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council a decision on non-cooperation with regard to a Council referral. The decision of Pre-Trial Chamber II of 9 April 2014 related to the non-compliance of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the cooperation requests issued by the Court regarding the arrest and surrender of Omer Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir.

6. In addition to cooperation extended by the United Nations to the Court pursuant to the provisions of the Relationship Agreement, the United Nations makes every effort to refrain from any actions that would frustrate the activities of the Court and its various organs, including the Prosecutor, or undermine the authority of their decisions. Further to the issuance by the Secretary-General of guidelines on contacts between United Nations personnel and persons who are the subject of arrest warrants or summonses issued by the Court (see A/67/828-S/2013/210), United Nations officials continued to implement the policy on essential contacts. In accordance with practice, the Legal Counsel informs the Prosecutor and the President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of any meetings

with persons who are the subject of arrest warrants issued by the Court that are considered necessary for the performance of tasks mandated by the United Nations. During the past year, a United Nations principal had occasion to meet an individual who is the subject of arrest warrants in relation to the situation in Darfur. It was not possible to inform the Court's principals beforehand of that meeting. The Legal Counsel subsequently explained to the Prosecutor and the President of the Assembly why it was considered necessary for the meeting to be held.

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Item 53 of the provisional agenda*
Comprehensive review of special political missions

Overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, which covers the period of August 2013 to July 2014, is submitted pursuant to resolution 68/85, whereby the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions, including efforts towards ensuring transparency, accountability, geographical representation, gender participation, expertise and effectiveness in respect of all special political missions.

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I. Introduction

1. Over the past few years, the international community has seen the emergence of an ever more complex international security environment. From the spread of transnational organized crime networks and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to the breakdown of State apparatus and the rise of inter-communal tensions in many areas, the United Nations faces a challenging new reality. The increased human and financial costs related to crisis management and response have further confirmed the imperative of conflict prevention.

2. As a core United Nations mechanism for conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding, special political missions have continued to play a critical role in the peace and security architecture of the Organization. Their growing importance is reflected in the fact that these missions are deployed to some of the most demanding contexts around the world, from Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia to Libya, the Great Lakes region and the Syrian Arab Republic.

3. Over the past few years, special political missions have been the subject of increased interest from Member States. This is further evidence of the increased reliance on these missions by the international community, as well as a consequence of the complexity of mandates and contexts in which they are deployed.

4. This is my second report on overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions. In 2013, further to General Assembly resolution 67/123, I submitted a comprehensive first report on this topic, which provided a detailed account of the historical evolution of special political missions, as well as their role in conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding, and discussed some important policy questions that these missions face on a day-to-day basis. The analysis contained in that report remains valid, as it addressed long-term trends that remain largely constant on a year-to-year basis. This report therefore focuses on providing updates on key developments relating to special political missions over the past year and on the policy issues covered in my 2013 report. It also covers the new issue areas highlighted by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/85.

II. Key developments in the reporting period

New missions and expansion and conclusion of existing mandates

5. The reporting period was a dynamic time for special political missions. Two missions concluded their operations: the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) and the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA). At the same time, three new special political missions were established by the Security Council: the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic, the Panel of Experts on Yemen and the Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the United Nations for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic.

6. On 31 March 2014, UNIPSIL successfully concluded its mandate on peace and security, closing a chapter in the Organization's engagement in Sierra Leone and signalling important progress in the country's transition. The successful exit of UNIPSIL marks the end of 15 years of United Nations peacekeeping and political

presences in the wake of the civil war in Sierra Leone. Given the significant progress made by the country in its peace consolidation and transition process, the Security Council decided that the political mission should give way to a regular United Nations country team presence, which would provide a different kind of assistance to the country going forward.

7. On 10 April 2014, in view of the grave deterioration of the security situation in the Central African Republic, the Security Council adopted resolution 2149 (2014), authorizing the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation in the country — the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). This marked the end of the mandate of BINUCA, which was subsumed under MINUSCA. BINUCA and its predecessor, the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA), had supported peacebuilding efforts in the Central African Republic since 2000.

8. Previously, the Security Council, in its resolution 2127 (2013), had decided to enact a sanctions regime for the Central African Republic for an initial period of one year. The Security Council established a sanctions committee, and requested the Secretary-General to create, for an initial period of 13 months, a group of up to five experts ("Panel of Experts") under the direction of the Committee. The mandate of the Panel was further extended to 28 January 2015 by its resolution 2134 (2014), in which the Council adopted additional targeted measures. As a result of both resolutions, the sanctions regime that the Panel will monitor consists of an arms embargo, which prevents the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer to the Central African Republic of arms and related materiel, an assets freeze and a travel ban.

9. On 19 March 2014, the Security Council adopted resolution 2146 (2014) increasing the size of the Panel of Experts on Libya from five to six members, in line with the expansion of the mandate of the Panel, which refers to illicit exports of crude oil from Libya, once the Government of Libya informs the Committee of such illegal export and once the Committee has designated a vessel exporting the crude.

10. The Security Council has made two requests for the Secretary-General to undertake assessments of the sanctions regimes in Somalia and Liberia. On 5 March 2014, the Security Council, in its resolution 2142 (2014), requested the Secretary-General to provide options and recommendations on United Nations and other technical assistance to the Federal Government of Somalia in complying with the requirements of the Council in paragraphs 3 to 7 and its requests in paragraph 9 of that resolution, and to assist the Government in improving its capacities to manage weapons and military equipment, including in monitoring and verification. In a letter dated 3 April 2014 (S/2014/243), the Secretary-General presented the results of his assessment mission.

11. Similarly, in a letter dated 16 July 2014 (S/2014/504), the President of the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to carry out an assessment on the progress that Liberia has made towards meeting the conditions set out in Security Council resolution 1521 (2003) for the termination of sanctions, and to provide recommendations on United Nations assistance and other technical assistance to the Government of Liberia in improving its capacities to undertake the proper management of arms and ammunition, including enacting the necessary legislative frameworks; and facilitating the effective monitoring and management of the border regions.

12. In its resolution 2118 (2013) of 27 September 2013, the Security Council endorsed the decision of the Executive Council of OPCW of the same date that the Syrian Arab Republic should complete the elimination of all chemical weapons material and equipment by 30 June 2014. In the same resolution, the Council authorized an advance team of United Nations personnel to provide early assistance to OPCW activities in the Syrian Arab Republic, and requested the Secretary-General to make recommendations regarding the role of the United Nations in eliminating the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic. Those recommendations were put forward by the Secretary-General in his letter to the President of the Security Council dated 7 October 2013 (S/2013/591). In his letter dated 11 October 2013 (S/2013/603), the President of the Security Council informed the Secretary-General about the authorization by the Council of the establishment of the OPCW-United Nations Joint Mission.

13. In its resolution 2140 (2014), the Security Council adopted, for an initial period of one year, a sanctions regime for Yemen consisting of an assets freeze and a travel ban. The Council established a sanctions committee to monitor the implementation of those measures and requested the Secretary-General to create, for an initial period of 13 months, a group of up to four experts ("Panel of Experts"), under the direction of the Committee established in the same resolution.

14. In addition, in its resolution 2137 (2014), the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) until 31 December 2014, requesting the mission to complete the transfer of appropriate responsibilities to the United Nations country team by that date. In the same resolution, the Security Council requested me to establish a United Nations electoral observer mission immediately following the end of the mandate of BNUB. This new mission is envisaged as a special political mission.

Interactive dialogue with Member States

15. In their consideration of the item "Comprehensive review of special political missions", Member States highlighted the importance of increased interaction between the Secretariat and Member States on policy matters pertaining to special political missions. In particular, the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/85, requested me "to hold regular, inclusive and interactive dialogues on the overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions in order to promote greater collaboration with Member States". In 2014, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs held an interactive dialogue with Member States in March and initiated consultations for a second one in the second semester.

16. The first interactive dialogue took place on 26 March 2014, and focused primarily on two thematic issues: the complexity of mandates of special political missions, and transitions from special political missions to United Nations country teams. The discussion highlighted the significant evolution in the mandates of these missions, which are now routinely tasked in areas ranging from good offices and electoral or constitutional support to human rights, rule of law, gender and security sector reform. This represents a significant move away from the more narrow political facilitation functions that these missions carried out originally. The interactive dialogue also discussed the importance of planned transitions for the long-term success of peace consolidation efforts in countries and regions where special political missions are deployed. In particular, the need for exit strategies was

highlighted as a critical ingredient to strengthen national ownership, as was timely planning for special political mission withdrawals.

17. At the time of writing the present report, informal consultations were being undertaken for the organization of the second interactive dialogue on special political missions in 2014.

III. Key policy issues and challenges

Delivering mandates in a volatile security environment

18. Over the reporting period, we saw a deterioration of the security situation in several countries in which special political missions operate, which created greater risks for United Nations personnel and assets, and posed significant obstacles for mandate implementation across various areas. This is in line with a longer-term trend that I described in my last report on overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions (A/68/223), where I pointed out that special political missions have been called upon to deliver complex mandates in situations of active conflicts, or barely post-conflict contexts. Volatile security environments hinder the ability of the Organization to interact with national stakeholders, both Government and civil society, in particular in more remote areas away from urban centres. Other areas of mandate implementation, such as humanitarian assistance, disarmament and demobilization or electoral assistance, may also be affected.

19. In Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, political missions are operating in areas with fragile security environments. In order to cope with these less permissible environments for United Nations operational work, the Organization has developed a menu of security options to minimize security risks while providing missions with the ability to implement their mandates. This may include cooperation with existing international or regionally led military operations in a country where special political missions are deployed, the deployment of United Nations security officers to support security for mission premises and personnel and enhanced cooperation with host Governments.

20. One of the options that the United Nations has explored in recent years is the deployment of guard units. A guard unit is a force composed of police or military personnel, or other State security forces, provided as contingents by one or more Member States and deployed with the authorization of the Security Council or the General Assembly to protect United Nations personnel, premises and assets in field missions operating in non-permissive environments. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq has had a guard unit since 2004; in 2013, three new guard units were authorized: for BINUCA on 29 October 2013, followed by UNSMIL on 27 November 2013 and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) on 24 December 2013.

Partnerships with regional and subregional organizations

21. Close partnerships with regional and subregional organizations are one of the key elements of success for special political missions. Over the past years, these partnerships have taken a wide range of modalities and covered various issue areas, reflecting the growing diversity and complexity of cooperation between the United Nations and regional actors.

22. Regionally mandated envoys, for example, have, by the nature of their mandate, a close relationship with regional actors in the areas in which they operate. In particular, given their focus on addressing cross-boundary issues and challenges, their cooperation with regional actors is critical in many cases. For example, the Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region has developed a strong partnership with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Southern African Development Community, the African Union and other regional actors. Similarly, the Special Envoy for the Sahel works closely with a wide range of regional and subregional actors to coordinate the different regional and international initiatives for the Sahel, including the African Union, the Arab Maghreb Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the African Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the European Union and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

23. Regional offices have also made strong efforts to work closely with regional or subregional organizations in their area of operation. For example, the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia holds regular annual or biannual consultations in the area of preventive diplomacy with regional organizations, notably the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union.

24. In some instances, cooperation with regional actors is a crucial part of their mandates. The United Nations Office to the African Union, for example, was established to further strengthen cooperation and the strategic partnership between the two institutions. The United Nations Office in West Africa (UNOWA) is mandated to enhance subregional capacities for conflict prevention, conflict management, mediation and good offices, including providing support to existing subregional mechanisms, in particular the Conflict Prevention Framework of ECOWAS and the Community's Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security. Similarly, the United Nations Regional Office in Central Africa (UNOCA) is mandated to cooperate with ECCAS, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries and other key partners in the region, providing assistance to their efforts to promote peace and stability in the broader Central African subregion. Both UNOWA and UNOCA have worked with regional partners such as ECOWAS, ECCAS and the Gulf of Guinea Commission to prepare a regional anti-piracy strategy for the Gulf of Guinea.

25. Country-specific missions have equally developed strong partnerships with key regional actors. The Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) works closely with the League of Arab States on issues of common interest, such as the Middle East peace process, Palestinian State building and unity, and the situation in Gaza. To improve and strengthen such cooperation, UNSCO opened a liaison office in Cairo in 2014. In Somalia, the United Nations has worked side-by-side with its regional partners, including the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the European Union, in addition to the logistical support provided by the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA) to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The United Nations Integrated

Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau enhanced its partnership with ECOWAS, which led regional support towards the restoration of constitutional order in the country, as well as the African Union, the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries and the European Union. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has been closely involved in the development of the Istanbul Process for Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan, which includes as one of its key elements drawing together the regional organizations operating in the 14-country "Heart of Asia" region to develop synergy and coherence among their activities, specifically in the areas of security, economic development, trade, disaster management and counter-narcotics. UNAMA also maintains close ties with the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia to coordinate efforts as required.

Support mechanisms in mediation and good offices

26. Given their relatively lean structure and light footprint, special political missions often have to rely on support from Headquarters in specific thematic areas, ranging from rule of law and constitution-making to electoral assistance. One of the key areas in which special political missions have required particular support over the past few years are mediation and good offices.

27. From the outset of my tenure as Secretary-General, and in line with calls from Member States and the international community more broadly, I have promoted the reinvigorated use of mediation and preventive diplomacy as critical instruments for the maintenance of international peace and security. In my recent reports on enhancing mediation and its support strategies (S/2009/189), preventive diplomacy (S/2011/552) and strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution (A/66/811), I have presented my vision for an Organization with stronger mediation and preventive diplomacy capacity, and described some of the steps we have taken to make this objective a reality.

28. As part of these efforts, the United Nations has enhanced its operational readiness to implement and support mediation efforts. The strengthening of the Department of Political Affairs, including through the establishment of a Mediation Support Unit, is a key development in this regard. The Unit, which complements expertise available elsewhere in the United Nations system, now serves as the central hub for mediation support within the United Nations system, capable of assisting the peace efforts of the United Nations, Member States, regional organizations and others.

29. In operational terms, a number of steps have contributed to strengthening the United Nations mediation capacity. An important asset in the rapid response capability of the Organization is the standby team of mediation experts. These experts, deployable within 72 hours, are specialists in mediation process design, constitution-making, gender and inclusion issues, sharing of natural resources, power-sharing and security arrangements. The Department of Political Affairs has also maintained rosters of pre-vetted thematic, operational and senior mediation experts, with geographical and gender representativeness, who can be deployed for longer-term engagements to support mediation processes. Knowledge products, such as induction guidance, good practices and technical papers, have also been systematically prepared and shared with mediators. Finally, mediation training for both senior mediators and working level staff, with special focus on women

mediators, and a high-level seminar series on gender and inclusive mediation, have been important areas of work.

30. Given their role in conflict prevention and peacemaking, special political missions are one of the main beneficiaries of these structures. Special envoys supporting complex mediation processes have frequently relied on expertise from the Department of Political Affairs on a wide range of mediation activities. In Yemen, standby team experts assisted through the Office of the Special Adviser in the design and conduct of the National Dialogue Conference that concluded successfully in January 2014. In other cases, special political missions facilitating constitutional processes have also benefitted from such expertise. Several standby team experts have been advising UNSMIL, and through it the Libyan Constitutional Drafting Assembly, on international best practices in constitution-making. In Somalia, a standby expert has been working closely with UNSOM to provide advice to the Speaker of Parliament and officials within the Federal Government of Somalia on how to move the country's constitutional review process forward. In Yemen, in addition to the support to the national dialogue process noted above, a standby team and other United Nations experts are supporting the Office of the Special Adviser in advising the constitution-drafting committee and its secretariat.

31. Given that the Organization, including through its missions in the field, is often called upon to provide electoral assistance in fragile or unstable environments, such as political transitions and post-conflict settings, we have placed greater focus on preventing election-related instability and violence, urging more consultative approaches that will enhance confidence in the electoral process and mitigate the risk of conflict.

Managing knowledge and learning lessons

32. As an increasing number of missions conclude their mandates, or new missions are deployed, the ability of the Organization to take stock of existing experiences, create inventories of successful policies and best practices, and disseminate them across the range of special political missions becomes even more important. Over the past few years, the United Nations has been undertaking concerted efforts to strengthen its knowledge management and lessons learned capacity and apply this to the work of its special political missions. In this process, the Organization seeks to learn from its failures and its successes. While the experience of each special political mission is highly context-specific, awareness of existing practice, policies and successful strategies can greatly contribute to the effectiveness of a mission in implementing its mandate.

33. In this regard, the Organization has created more opportunities for the exchange of experiences and good practices among mission leadership and specialized areas. For example, in March 2014, my Special Representatives — heads of both special political missions and peacekeeping operations — met for an annual retreat, where they shared views on some key challenges they face on the ground, from security and resourcing to mediation and conflict prevention. In the same month, the heads of political affairs components in field-based special political missions met in an annual retreat to exchange experiences on key substantive and operational issues faced in the discharge of the mandate of the mission. The Joint Mission Analysis Centre workshop, held in May 2014, afforded information analyst officers and Centre Chiefs from both special political missions and peacekeeping

missions the opportunity to share good practices and lessons learned. A dedicated workshop for special political missions Chiefs of Staff is also being planned.

34. The Organization has also focused on the preparation of guidance material in key thematic areas such as crisis management, integrated assessment and planning, and on mission concepts. These system-wide and interdepartmental products have been accompanied by implementation strategies to ensure that guidance is implemented and promoted at both Headquarters and in the field. In addition, the Organization is undertaking several studies, such as on Security Council-mandated benchmarks in the context of mission transitions and an independent review of the United Nations programme criticality framework — a systematic approach to determining the criticality of all activities carried out by United Nations personnel and establishing maximum acceptable risk for staff working on different activities.

35. Mission-specific lessons learned activities and other analytical studies have been an important component of the ability of the Organization to capture successful experiences. For example, in 2014, the Department of Political Affairs undertook a lessons learned study on the UNIPSIL transition to the United Nations country team at the end of its mandate on 31 March 2014. In May 2013, the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support produced a joint evaluation of the start-up of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya in order to identify the challenges faced by the mission during its first months of operations, and to explore opportunities to better support the start-up of special political missions. In 2013, the Department of Political Affairs undertook a lessons learned exercise on the strategic review and budget cuts of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq, to inform similar strategic reviews and budget processes in field-based special political missions in the future. A study jointly commissioned in 2013 by the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations Development Programme on integrated electoral assistance in United Nations mission settings provided recommendations on how to improve United Nations assistance and national electoral processes in countries on the agenda of the Security Council.

Geographical representation, gender participation and expertise

36. The United Nations seeks to have a pool of staff that is representative of its global membership, both at Headquarters and in the field. Geographical diversity greatly enriches the work of the Organization. Field-based special political missions, in particular, have benefitted from such diversity. These missions generally employ significant numbers of national staff, including national professional officers, whose knowledge of local dynamics, politics, language and culture is invaluable to the overall work of the mission. As part of its broader policies for the Secretariat as a whole, the Organization will continue to work to improve the representation of staff from across the globe in all its special political missions.

37. As a standard setting organization, the United Nations has a strong responsibility to achieve gender parity and gender equality within its own system. It strives to lead by example, although several challenges remain to be addressed and overcome. I have repeatedly emphasized the high priority I attach to achieving this important goal. In my report on improvement in the status of women in the United Nations system (A/67/347), I outlined the present status of women in the United

Nations system and the measures and policies put in place to ensure that the Organization continues to make progress towards gender equality.

38. In addition, important efforts are being undertaken to increase the number of women serving as senior mediators for the United Nations. In 2013, I appointed Mary Robinson as Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region. Similarly, in 2014, my appointment of Hiroute Guebre Sellassie as Special Envoy for the Sahel further reinforced our ranks of women mediators. In order to increase the pool of women qualified to take up similar key positions, the Organization has developed dedicated mediation training courses specifically tailored for women in senior level positions. In order to strengthen gender perspective among the existing pool of mediators, a high-level seminar on gender and inclusive mediation processes was also developed and offered to 101 envoys, senior mediators and mediation experts in 2013-2014, with three more seminars to be organized in 2014 and 2015.

39. In addition to striving for gender equality within their own ranks, special political missions have an equally important role to play in promoting women's participation and representation in ongoing conflict prevention and resolution efforts. During the last reporting period, women were represented on all United Nations mediation support teams, and gender expertise was provided in a majority of our mediation engagements. Women's representation on delegations of negotiating parties has also increased steadily throughout the past years.

40. As I noted in my 2013 report, the mandates of special political missions have expanded considerably over the past decade. In particular, these missions now routinely carry out multidimensional mandates that go beyond their traditional political functions to cover activities in areas such as rule of law, constitutional and electoral assistance, human rights, security sector reform, gender and conflict-related sexual violence. Special political missions with electoral mandates regularly work closely with the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs. Similarly, when specific expertise in the area of rule of law and security sector reform is needed, special political missions receive support from the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

41. The increasing breadth of the mandates of special political missions has as a result created a demand for specific expertise. Special political missions that do not have dedicated capacity in all areas that relate to their mandate may also call upon expertise based at Headquarters to meet specific needs. For example, all special political missions can receive gender expertise from the Department of Political Affairs headquarters on issues related to gender mainstreaming and women, peace and security, including how to prevent and address conflict-related sexual violence.

IV. Observations

42. Special political missions continue to play a critical role in the United Nations overall efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts, and to build a sustainable peace. The developments in the reporting period further reaffirm their place at the centre of the Organization's peace and security architecture.

43. The closure of UNIPSIL after it successfully completed its mandate on 31 March 2014 and the decision of the Security Council to end the mandate of

BNUB by 31 December 2014 underline the fact that most of these missions are not permanent fixtures, but, rather, are mechanisms that are deployed only for as long as their support is needed. Once mandates are successfully completed these missions will give way to other United Nations structures, in particular the development presences of country teams. On the other hand, the closure of BINUCA in the Central African Republic also highlights the value of different tools at the disposal of the Security Council to deal with its mandate of maintenance of international peace and security.

44. National ownership remains a core component of the work carried out by special political missions. Their mandates and activities are designed with a central premise: only national actors can address the needs and goals of their societies in a sustainable manner. In this regard, the role of special political missions is ultimately a supporting role, aimed at assisting national counterparts and regional partners in resolving conflict and consolidating peace.

45. Continued support from Member States to special political missions is a key element in their ability to implement their mandate successfully. A very important dimension of this support is political unity behind the efforts of my Special Representatives and Special Envoys, for whom the backing of the international community is the most important currency and source of legitimacy. Support from Member States is also required insofar as the funding of special political missions is concerned. I would like to recall that special political missions still face important challenges related to administrative and budgetary matters; those issues lie within the remit of the Fifth Committee and are the subject of my report on the review of arrangements for funding and backstopping special political missions (A/66/340).

46. In closing, I would like to pay tribute to my Special Representatives and Special Envoys and to the dedicated and courageous United Nations staff serving in these missions, who often work under difficult conditions in support of peace, security and development.

Annex

United Nations special political missions (as at 31 July 2014)

Special Envoys

1. Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus
2. Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to the Great Lakes Region[a]
3. Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar
4. Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide
5. Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel
6. Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan
7. Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria
8. Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara
9. Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen
10. Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004)
11. United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions

Sanctions panels and monitoring groups

1. Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea
2. Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire
3. Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo
4. Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
5. Panel of Experts on the Islamic Republic of Iran
6. Panel of Experts on Liberia
7. Panel of Experts on Libya
8. Panel of Experts on the Sudan
9. Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1526 (2004) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities
10. Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
11. Support to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) [concerning the non-proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction]
12. Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic

[a] Funded from the "unforeseen" account until 31 December 2013.

13. Panel of Experts on Yemen

Field-based missions

1. Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon
2. Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process[b]
3. United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
4. United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
5. United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
6. United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau
7. United Nations Office in Burundi
8. United Nations Office for Central Africa
9. United Nations Office for West Africa
10. United Nations Office to the African Union[b]
11. United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
12. United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission
13. United Nations Support Mission in Libya
14. Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic.

[b] Funded from the regular budget but technically not part of the special political mission budgetary category.

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Report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of Water Cooperation

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the origin, purpose and impact of the activities of the International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013, called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/154, in order to increase and improve water cooperation worldwide in the face of growing pressure on water resources and impacts on societies and nature. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was appointed by UN-Water to coordinate its preparations, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and with the support of the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development and the UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication. UNESCO has produced this report on behalf of UN-Water, in consultation with all UN-Water members and partners.

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I. Introduction

1. Water is vital for life and development but water resources on the planet are limited. In all settings water is being shared, and water issues cross multiple physical, political and jurisdictional boundaries. By its very nature, water is a cross-cutting issue which demands attention at all levels and across sectors and involves multiple stakeholders, and often with conflicting and competing needs. It is only through water cooperation that humanity will succeed in the future to manage our finite and fragile water resources, which are under increasing pressure from the activities of a growing world population of over 7 billion people. Pressure on water resources is escalating from use by agriculture and industry, from pollution and urbanization, and from global anthropogenic changes.

2. Water cooperation takes many forms, ranging from cooperation across boundaries to managing shared underground aquifers and river basins, scientific data exchange, financial and technical cooperation and the cooperation between women and men for gender-sensitive water governance. International cooperation is necessary to address a large number of management issues, such as water allocation decisions, upstream and downstream impacts of water pollution and water abstraction, infrastructure development, overexploitation, and financing of water management. In short, water cooperation refers to the peaceful management and use of freshwater resources at the local, national, regional and international levels among various players and sectors, as well as between generations. The concept of water cooperation entails working together towards a common goal, in a way that is mutually beneficial, in a spirit of solidarity. Developing water cooperation involves an interdisciplinary approach integrating cultural, educational and scientific factors and covering religious, ethical, gender, social, political, legal, institutional and economic dimensions. Water cooperation is a vehicle for building peace and a foundation for sustainable development and gender equality.

3. In December 2010, the General Assembly declared 2013 as the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation in its resolution 65/154, following the proposal submitted by a group of Member States, initiated by Tajikistan. The 31 members of UN-Water appointed the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to lead preparations for both the 2013 International Year and the World Water Day in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and with the support of the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development and the UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication. The campaigns for the International Year of Water Cooperation and the World Water Day jointly formed the Water Cooperation 2013 campaign.

4. Four key messages and five strategic objectives structured the Water Cooperation 2013 campaign (see box 1 and annex 1).

Box 1
International Year of Water Cooperation key messages and objectives

The key messages of the International Year of Water Cooperation

Water cooperation builds peace

Water cooperation creates tangible economic benefits

Water cooperation is key to socioeconomic development, poverty eradication, social equity, gender equality and environmental sustainability

Water cooperation is crucial to preserve water resources, ensure their sustainability and protect the environment

The five strategic objectives of the International Year of Water Cooperation

1. Raise awareness of the importance, the benefits and the challenges of cooperation on water-related issues.
2. Enhance knowledge and build capacity for water cooperation.
3. Spark concrete and innovative action towards water cooperation.
4. Foster partnerships, dialogue and cooperation around water as top priorities, also beyond 2013.
5. Strengthen international cooperation among institutions, users, social and economic sectors and others in order to reach a consensus on Sustainable Development Goals for the post-2015 era which will effectively address our future water needs.

II. Impact of the International Year of Water Cooperation and World Water Day campaign

5. In order to fulfil the water cooperation campaign's objectives and goals, UN-Water members and partners, and other contributors to the campaign, encouraged a diverse global public to participate in activities related to the observance of the Year. The audience included, but was not limited to: youth/children, adult public, economic sectors, indigenous and local communities, women's groups, civil society, Governments and decision makers, basin organizations, international organizations, international funding agencies and the media. The International Year of Water Cooperation and the World Water Day not only addressed this target audience but also sparked action among these groups. Some of these actors were not involved directly but rather indirectly, e.g., through national or local governments, international organizations or civil society. Not all modes of intervention were targeted at the same groups, nor were all objectives directed to the same extent at all audiences.

6. Information on campaign impacts through events and contributions were collected in the International Year of Water Cooperation website database of events (982 entries) and, more detailed, through a survey[1] developed by UNESCO (311 entries). The latter aimed at encouraging contributors to the International Year and World Water Day to share their experiences and at summarizing outcomes. While remaining small in scale owing to the limited number of returns, the survey delivered valuable indications of the campaign's impact, which are used in this report, with full recognition of its limitations.

7. For example, the total number of people reported as having been directly involved or impacted by activities related to the International Year is 548,409 (out of 199 contributions reporting on the question). This number is based on the subset of activities that were reported to the UNESCO survey conducted from December 2013 to March 2014. However, based on the 982 registered events (website of the International Year) and on a survey of activities reported on websites, it can be pointed out that the vast majority of contributions are unreported. Assuming a reporting rate of 2 per cent, it can be conjectured that the real total number of people directly involved or impacted by the year is well over 25 million. For instance, just one unreported activity conducted by a university in Spain involved over 150,000 people, and the vast majority of television programmes associated with the Year, are equally unaccounted for. These examples illustrate the difficulties in providing accurate data on the total number of contributions and people involved in the Year, and the reported subset must be interpreted as a gross underestimation of the real impact of the International Year.

8. With regard to the objectives of the International Year, contributors frequently responded that they had supported several objectives and goals, but only a part of the reported contributions (199 out of 311, see above) submitted information about the estimated number of persons reached (both directly (through personal attendance/participation) and indirectly (through printed publications), websites, CD and DVD sales), which can therefore be assumed to be significantly higher. The numbers of events and of persons reached through them are not proportional. Thus, 78 per cent of the reported events (or 243 of them) contributed to raising awareness on the importance, benefits and challenges of water cooperation, accounting for 547,391 persons. A total of 49 per cent (or 151 events) enhanced knowledge and developed capacity for water cooperation, involving 457,631 people; 39 per cent (or 121) fostered partnerships, dialogue and cooperation around water as a top priority, during and beyond 2013, reaching 368,165 persons; 28 per cent (or 87) sparked concrete and innovative action towards water cooperation, involving 399,164 persons; and finally, according to the survey only 24 per cent of the contributions (76 events) served to strengthen international cooperation among institutions, users, social and economic sectors and others.

9. The nature of the campaign, which extensively relied on awareness-raising tools, events and media to reach out and create snowball effects, influenced the capacity to measure the impact per objective. Impacts related to objectives 2 (*Enhance knowledge*

[1] The survey's questionnaire was sent to all known contributors to the International Year of Water Cooperation and World Water Day (based on UN-Water's register of events and the UNESCO database of International Year of Water Cooperation contacts: more than 2,000 addresses) and advertised on relevant web pages. The questionnaire in English, French and Spanish contained 33 questions.

and build capacity for water cooperation), 3 (*Spark concrete and innovative action towards water cooperation)* and 4 (*Foster partnerships, dialogue and cooperation around water as top priorities, also beyond 2013*) in particular were impossible to quantify in the absence of benchmarks, performance indicators and expected results fixed a priori. In order to provide an overview of impacts otherwise difficult to measure, reporting on the Year's official milestone events will serve to exemplify major contributions with multiple impacts.

1. Raising awareness

10. In order to assess, explain and address the challenges and barriers to water cooperation, UN-Water developed a visual identity and communication strategy for the Water Cooperation 2013 campaign, reflected in website design, publications, various campaign materials and the logo, for widest possible dissemination. The combined logo of the International Year of Water Cooperation and World Water Day integrated cultural expressions in the form of traditional local patterns and designs from many countries, symbolizing diversity in complementariness. Each logo was available for download. In addition to the initial version, volunteers around the world translated the logo into more than 60 languages. Thanks to a logo builder (developed with the suppor: of the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development) users created uncounted variants.

11. The campaign website www.watercooperation2013.org was hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The website distributed a newsfeed and newsletters throughout the International Year, linked to interactive tools, publications and events. UN-Water partners and members provided content and materials, such as the International Year brochure in 6 languages and the Advocacy guide, 3 infographics and 10 factsheets. The site comprised a register and world map of events, contacts and links to the social media campaign tools of the International Year. It also showcased flyers, posters, t-shirt templates, educational comics, games, success stories, events around the world, a list of partners and databases of inputs. Highly successful in attracting a global public, the site drew 378,901 visitors, with well over 1 million cumulated page views in 2013.

12. The campaign also triggered a significant press echo. Throughout 2013, press articles and audiovisual media took up issues related to the International Year. A total of 6,374 articles in 17 languages mentioned the International Year and/or the World Water Day 2013 in paper and online media worldwide, of which 3,499 were in Europe and North America, 1,085 in Latin America, 1,271 in Asia and the Pacific, 199 in Africa and 320 in the Arab States (tool: meltwater). In the first place, organizers learned about the International Year through television, followed by the International Year Facebook page, the press, colleagues and partners, other social networks and the International Year website.

2. Knowledge building and capacity-development

13. Through providing educational material and access to relevant information and with an array of conferences and events organized worldwide, the Water Cooperation campaign facilitated the exchange of expertise and the sharing of scientific data. UN-Water members and partners have produced publications, which completed and sometimes expanded other campaign materials. Numerous

workshops and materials helped train men and women in water cooperation skills and fostered knowledge exchange.

14. Publications designed to collect and share knowledge to improve water cooperation also beyond 2013 were made available by several agencies, as hardcopies and online (see the International Year resources webpage).[2] Many documents were also disseminated through events. The following are examples:

- *World of Science* special issue Vol. 11, No. 1 (UNESCO, 2013)
- Water: catalyst for Cooperation (Global Water Partnership, 2013)
- Capacity Development for Water Cooperation, UNW-DPC Capacity Pool Issue No. 16 (UNW-DPC 2013)
- Monograph on Water cooperation (UNW-DPAC, 2013)
- *Free Flow: Reaching water security through cooperation* (joint publication UNESCO/Tudor Rose, October 2013)
- Poster — The Water Convention: 20 years of successful water cooperation
- Poster (in 23 languages), the Water Cycle poster and quiz in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey; 7 languages), postcards, calendar, logo kits and banners for print

15. The campaign also incited and helped many contributors to organize events and create cooperation around water-related issues at all levels, creating a movement of "learning-by-doing" throughout the Year (see sect. III of the present report).

3. Sparking innovative actions

16. One important innovation realized throughout the International Year concerned the systematic involvement of youth representatives, women and men, in the Milestone and many other events, at a level where their positions could be shared with the entire audience and were reflected in outcome documents and recommendations. This is expected to have a lasting impact on water cooperation worldwide.

17. During calendar 2013 the international business community also made strides in the area of water cooperation, especially through initiatives such as the United Nations Global Compact's Chief Executive Officer Water Mandate, which encompasses more than 100 large corporations with public commitments to "water stewardship". In March, for example, the Chief Executive Officer Water Mandate convened an international event in Mumbai, which focused on the post-2015 agenda and how companies can better coordinate activities with civil society, Governments, United Nations agencies, and other stakeholders. Related, the CEO Water Mandate's Water Action Hub — the world's first online partnership project platform — attracted ever-growing interest, ending the year with almost 300 collaborative projects posted in watersheds around the world.

18. In the context of the International Year, new dynamics developed within existing processes. For example, the concerted efforts of many actors led in recent years to a steep increase in engagements towards the 1997 Water Convention. It will

[2] http://www.unwater.org/water-cooperation-2013/get-involved/other-resources/en/.

enter into force in August 2014, since in May 2014, Viet Nam the 35th country committed to the convention. In 2013, the accessions of four Member States were registered, the strongest count since 1997, on par with the four accessions in 2012 (when a ratification was also registered). Overall, since the General Assembly adopted its resolution 65/154 on the International Year, 16 countries legally bound themselves to the obligations of the Convention.[3] Compliance with international law constitutes a key tool for water cooperation: in particular human rights law and multilateral environmental agreements can be the foundation for a coordinated and coherent approach to water cooperation.

4. Partnerships, dialogue and cooperation

19. In addition to United Nations entities and the Member States involved in aforementioned processes, the campaign involved other thematic and/or regional organizations and processes. They included, among others, the Convention on Biodiversity, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the ratification process of the 1997 Watercourse Convention, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Through coordination with UN-Water and, inter alia, its network of Field Offices, UNESCO and its partners have linked IYWC, for example, to the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) for Sub-Saharan Africa, with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for the Arab Countries and Western Asia; the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA); and the International Labour Organization (ILO) for the MDG-Joint Programme in Nicaragua, Panama and Paraguay.

20. Synergies between existing initiatives and processes appeared throughout the International Year and beyond. For example, several 2013 World Day campaigns were dedicated to Water Cooperation, such as World Wetlands Day (Ramsar Convention), the International Day of Biological Diversity, World Tourism Day and World Science Day.

21. Overall, the importance of the development of partnerships across sectors and regions has been a leitmotiv throughout the Year and is likely to durably modify the international water community in striving to ensure sustainable water for all.

5. The international development agenda and the International Year of Water Cooperation

22. The IYWC must be seen in the frame of the international development agenda of the United Nations: the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development have advocated since 1992 "cooperation among States, key sectors of societies and people" (A/CONF.151/26 (Vol. I)) to fulfil the objectives of Agenda 21 and its chapter 18 dedicated to water; the decision to celebrate World Water Day since 1993; the water-related targets (7.c) of the Millennium Development Goals and the international recognition of the cross-cutting, crucial importance of water and sanitation for all issues covered by the Millennium Development Goals. All of these measures reflect the necessity to strengthen cooperation on water issues at all

[3] See: http://www.internationalwaterlaw.org/documents/intldocs/watercourse_status.html.

levels, from the local to the national, regional and international, involving all stakeholders.

23. In line with the evolution of the international water agenda, the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015 was proclaimed in General Assembly resolution 58/217 to aim at "the furtherance of cooperation at all levels, in order to help to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals contained in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation". In its resolution on the right to access to safe drinking water and sanitation, the Human Rights Council stressed the important role of international cooperation for achieving the relevant Millennium Development Goals (resolutions 64/292 and 68/157).

24. In June 2012, at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the Heads of State and Governments and high-level representatives recognized in the outcome document (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex) The Future We Want "that water is at the core of sustainable development" and reaffirmed the water-related commitments made in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Declaration and regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. In this perspective, The Future We Want furthermore underlined the need to address a large array of water issues, including extreme events, pollution and wastewater treatment and recalled "the need for international assistance and cooperation".

25. UN-Water, Member States and other stakeholders organized celebrations and major events on the International Year, considered to be milestones of the Year, marking progress and guiding beyond 2013, in line with International Year Objective 5, Strengthen international cooperation among institutions, users, social and economic sectors and others in order to reach a consensus on Sustainable Development Goals for the post-2015 era which will effectively address our future water needs. The events also supported the International Year objectives across the board and involved all relevant areas, including but not limited to education, culture, gender, the sciences, conflict prevention and resolution, as well as ethics. Throughout all the events, the organizers and participants contributed to concretizing the proposal for a dedicated Sustainable Development Goal on water.

UN-Water International Annual Zaragoza Conference "Preparing for the 2013 International Year. Water Cooperation: Making it Happen", January 2013 (Europe)

26. UNW-DPAC organized this Conference from 8 to 10 January 2013, in Zaragoza, Spain. The conference brought together United Nations experts, participants from case studies in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Peru and Spain and key professionals from all around the world. This constituted the first major event during the period of the International Year. Case studies presented in Zaragoza were used subsequently in the campaign, e.g., in the International Year brochure. The conference concluded that while political will, legal frameworks, accountability and institutional structures provide a solid foundation for water cooperation, achieving water cooperation is the result of a long-term process which requires time, patience and mutual trust.

Box 2

International Year of Water Cooperation contribution to preparing the post-2015 development agenda

An outline of the contribution of the International Year of Water Cooperation to the Global Thematic Consultation on Water in preparation of the post-2015 development agenda

The 'World We Want 2015' Global Thematic Consultation on Water, facilitated under the umbrella of UN-Water, co-led by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and co-hosted by Jordan, Liberia, Mozambique, the Netherlands and Switzerland has helped define the role of water in the post-2015 development agenda. The Post-2015 Global Thematic Consultation on Water reached out through online engagement and social media and offered diverse perspectives and fresh insights on the water-related challenges people face in improving their lives and those of their communities. Beyond the online platforms for discussion, the water consultation enabled interactive and engaging face-to-face dialogues in many countries.

To clarify and explore water's diverse role, and following the orientation given by the Rio+20 Conference, the Consultation married two complementary approaches and audiences. The general global consultation reached people broadly interested in water and encouraged them to share their views. More narrowly, three sub-consultations encouraged weekly in-depth discussions around the topics: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Water Resources Management (led by UNECE); and Wastewater Management and Water Quality (led by UN-Habitat and AquaFed).

The Global Thematic Consultations on Water were an important input to the intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals. It was widely recognized that water cooperation is a joint responsibility and can only be achieved through cooperation at the local, national, regional and global level and through partnerships with a multitude of stakeholders. Water cooperation is most critical to achieve our common goals and ensure a prosperous and sustainable future.

Main conclusions of the Global Thematic Consultation on Water were drawn at the Final High-level Meeting held in The Hague in conjunction with the World Water Day celebration on 22 March 2013, as part of the International Year of Water Cooperation.

In January 2014, UN-Water's 31 Members from the United Nations system and 36 international Partners provided consolidated technical advice from the United Nations system to Member States to prioritize water in the post-2015 development agenda. A broad goal would capture the fundamental importance of water for both humans and the environment. (cf: http://www.unwater.org/topics/water-in-the-post-2015-development-agenda/en/)

Launch Ceremony for the 2013 International Year of Water Cooperation, UNESCO, February 2013, Paris (Europe)

27. UNESCO organized the official launch of the International Year at UNESCO Headquarters on 11 February 2013 with over 170 participants and in the presence of the Chair of UN-Water and Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Director-General of UNESCO and high-level representatives of several Member States and of the European Union, UN-Water and other partner organizations. The International Year campaign slogan was announced officially during this event.

28. The selection of the International Year slogan was a participative process involving the general public from all over the world. A selection committee composed of the UN-Water Management Team, UNESCO, ECE, UNW-DPAC and civil society had selected 10 out of over 12,000 slogan proposals, received from about 5,000 people in 180 countries. In a final public online poll, 3,000 participants chose the slogan "Water, water everywhere, only if we share", by Ms. Megha Kumar, from India.

29. During the launch event, UNESCO organized a youth event with local and international schools and the World Youth Parliament on Water. Gathered at the Pavillon de l'eau of Paris, over 100 youth representatives from about 30 countries discussed the global water situation, including:

- Access to water
- Water cooperation for the Global Sustainable Development Agenda
- Disaster reduction
- Regional and national level cooperation
- Cooperation, education and capacity development
- Youth

They finalized a Youth Declaration on water cooperation, which highlighted, among other issues:

- The lack of strategic infrastructure and increase of pollution by human activities, including deforestation, industrial production, unsustainable consumption and uncontrolled waste, affecting the quality and quantity of freshwater
- The insufficient knowledge and capacities at all levels regarding the causes and consequences of global changes, including climate change
- The need to create a more cooperative environment for the management of transboundary waters

30. As a result, the youth took on "the responsibility to take concrete actions according to the need and reality of our specific water resources" (Youth Declaration). The presence of Youth representatives in many events across the world echoed this dynamic.

World Water Day, 22 March: The High-Level Forum

The Hague, Netherlands (Europe)

31. The official World Water Day event in The Hague was an opportunity for the exchange of good examples and best practices of water cooperation from a global perspective and various viewpoints, including politics, civil society, science and business. The World Water Day celebration also focused on the outcomes of the Post-2015 Global Thematic Consultation on Water. The World Day overall theme focused on water cooperation as a foundation for peace and sustainable development and comprised: (a) an opening plenary session, including keynote speeches to set the tone and highlight objectives; (b) a series of thematic sessions to identify approaches to water cooperation by different stakeholder groups and to produce as output a contribution to the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda; (c) a High-level Forum which recognized the World Day output and highlighted that "water is a prerequisite in the future development framework in order to attain vital economic, equity, employment, health, educational, agriculture/food and energy benefits and for maintaining ecosystem services and supporting resilience to climate change". A wide variety of stakeholders was present, counting 588 participants from UN-Water, member States, academia, non-governmental organizations, youth, indigenous and spiritual leaders, and the private sector.

32. The means used to communicate on the WWD included: web pages of UN-Water members and partners, cumulating on WWD over 173,000 visits and more than 176,000 page views; the dedicated web page of the Dutch Government; a press kit; a live webcast watched by over 8,000 people; the WWD programme folder; UNESCO Water e-Newsletter for the Day; WWD celebrations map; a social media campaign with photo and video galleries reaching over 220,000 people; the Water Couch video interview space. About 50 press representatives attended. Interviews were made during and ahead of World Water Day to raise awareness on water cooperation. WWD generated significant media coverage, including stories in international print and audiovisual media, focusing on water cooperation. During World Water Day, public, cultural and media events linked to the celebrations, took place in and outside the venue, e.g., a live concert by Maestro Tan Dun, designated UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, water sounds, theatre performances, dedicated documentary and art work. "Walks for Water", highlighting the campaign's "kid power" were organized around World Water Day, in The Netherlands and worldwide.

33. In parallel to the UN-Water celebration of World Water Day in The Hague and pursuant to resolution 67/204 on the International Year implementation, a High-level interactive Dialogue of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly was held in New York to mark the International Year and the twentieth anniversary of the proclamation of World Water Day. It was connected to the celebrations in The Hague with a video link during the High-level Forum.

34. About 730 events reported on the official website for the Water Cooperation 2013 Campaign, were organized by a variety of actors (e.g., schools, non-governmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations, local and governmental authorities, United Nations offices, etc.) around the world. A more detailed analysis of the registered events can be found in sections III and IV of this report.

High-Level International Conference on Water Cooperation

Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 20-21 August (Asia)

35. The offer by the Government of Tajikistan to organize this conference had been welcomed by the General Assembly in resolution 67/204 as part of the implementation of the International Year. The event reflected the strong engagement of Tajikistan in the organization of the Year, the proposal for which it had initiated. This conference brought together representatives of governments, international and regional organizations and civil society. It pursued the deliberations of the High-level Dialogue in New York and the High-level Forum in The Hague on World Water Day, as well as other international and regional events on water cooperation. During plenary sessions, High-Level Panels and Special Focus Events participants put forward proposals summarized in the Dushanbe Framework for Action.[4]

36. The Declaration of the High-level Conference on Water Cooperation in Dushanbe promotes action at all levels to advance cooperation, recommending, inter alia:

- Cooperative development and management of transboundary water resources at the basin level
- Stronger dialogue at the local, national and regional levels to promote the cooperative development and management of water across boundaries and sectors for the benefit of all stakeholders, in accordance with the norms of international law
- To take into account the importance of indigenous knowledge and of all stakeholders including women and children as leaders of change
- That issues of water resources, drinking water and sanitation, and wastewater be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda

Stockholm World Water Week: Water Cooperation — Building partnerships

Stockholm, Sweden, 1-5 September (Europe)

37. The annual event in Stockholm, organized by the Stockholm International Water Institute, was coordinated in 2013 with UN-Water, reflecting the International Year of Water Cooperation. Over 270 organizations organized more than 100 events during the Stockholm World Water Week, covering a wide range of key areas of water cooperation, in relation to ecosystem health, private sector, information and communication technology to improve water governance, transboundary water cooperation, water, energy and food, climate change mitigation and adaptation, freshwater and oceans, groundwater governance, cooperation across and within jurisdictions and levels for good water governance, the bridging of the land-water divide, climate uncertainty and water and the "Science and Art of Water Cooperation".[5] Through a focus of Stockholm World Water Week on the Middle East and North Africa, ESCWA and BGR launched the Inventory of Shared Water Resources in Western Asia in order to support the shared water resources management in the Arab region. UN-Water members and partners were active

[4] www.hlicwc.org and http://www.womenforwater.org/docs/outcome_documents_eng.pdf.

[5] www.worldwaterweek.org/documents/WWW_PDF/2013/2013_WWW_Report_web.pdf.

partners of Stockholm World Water Week, participated in workshops, seminars, side events and special sessions, such as the water cooperation puzzle, the play "Theatre of the Absurd" on water security, cooperation and governance. The UN-Water pavilion presented International Year of Water Cooperation campaign material.

38. The overarching conclusions of the Stockholm World Water Week[6] pinpointed:

- Cooperation: For what and by whom?
- Water is not an isolated sector, but a connector
- Cooperation encounters roadblocks and bridges
- The water community still fails to successfully engage other sectors
- For cooperation to advance, its actors need to reach out of the water box/aquarium

39. Regarding the post-2015 agenda, the Stockholm World Water Week voiced the call for putting water at the centre of development at the horizon of 2030, recommending:

- Balancing competing demands for the same resources via integration and cooperation
- Although it is more difficult to work across sectors, integration and cooperation are necessary and inevitable
- The challenge is to develop suitable approaches and successfully implement them
- Coalitions, networks and partnerships need to find the way to reach out to non-conventional partners and look into new forms of collaboration to increase their impact and visibility

UNESCO High-Level and Strategic Meeting on Water Security and Cooperation

Nairobi, Kenya, 11-13 September 2013 (Africa)

40. The meeting was organized in collaboration with the Government of Kenya and promoted international cooperation on freshwater, including the planning of joint activities within the scope of the eighth phase of the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme. Among the more than 160 participants from about 50 countries attending the meeting were several Ministers of Water and Environment from African countries, high-level representatives and technical experts. The High-Level meeting highlighted the importance and challenges of scientific, regional and South-South and tripartite cooperation, advocated wise water governance and coordinated policy implementation.[7]

[6] www.worldwaterweek.org/documents/WWW_PDF/2013/2013-Overarching-Conclusions-web.pdf.

[7] The full report is available at http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002259/225993e.pdf.

The Budapest World Water Summit

Budapest, Hungary, 8-11 October 2013 (Europe)

41. Organized by the Government of Hungary, the conference gathered High-level officials of States Members of United Nations agencies, including the Secretary-General and several heads of agencies, economic and social partners active in the water sector. It aimed to contribute to the elaboration of a possible water-related Systems Development Group and provide concrete guidance on the most pressing water issues — drinking water, sanitation, wastewater treatment, integrated water management, international water cooperation, innovative water technologies — with a view to defining the priorities of global development policy post-2015. The Summit also comprised an exhibition and numerous side events organized by UN-Water members and partners, such as the launch of the International Year of Water Cooperation publication "Free Flow".

42. The stakeholder groups present at the Summit, scientists, politicians, business leaders and youth representatives supported the Budapest Water Summit Statement "A Sustainable World is a Water Secure World".[8] Among its key recommendations was a dedicated and comprehensive SDG on Water and SMART(ER) (Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound (Evaluated and Re-evaluated)) targets on universal access, integrated management, reduced pollution, increased resilience.

Special Programme on the International Year of Water Cooperation during the 37th General Conference of UNESCO

Paris, 14 November (Europe)

43. A special programme on the International Year of Water Cooperation was organized in the framework of the Science Commission of the UNESCO General Conference, in the presence of the Director-General. Brazil, Germany, Hungary, India, Kenya, Korea, Mexico, Tajikistan and the United Arab Emirates presented the events and activities undertaken during the campaign to representatives of the 195 UNESCO member States. The programme highlighted and provided an occasion to exchange on the contributions to the International Year at all levels: from individual participations like the International Year slogan to local events and international conferences and discussions on the possible role of water in the post-2015 development agenda.

International Year of Water Cooperation Closing Ceremony

5-6 December, Mexico City (Latin America)

44. UNESCO, on behalf of UN-Water, organized the closing ceremony with the support of the Government of Mexico through the National Water Commission (CONAGUA), which also published the memoirs of the event.[9] The ceremony included high-level panels on the global perspectives of water security and cooperation, on the milestone events and on United Nations activities that took place

[8] www.budapestwatersummit.hu/data/images/Budapest_Water_Summit_Statement_Final_11_October_2013.pdf.

[9] Available at https://en.unesco.org/news/now-available-memoirs-closing-ceremony-international-year-water-cooperation-2013.

during the Year. It brought together more than 400 participants from 60 countries, including ministers from several world regions, and over 200 institutions. Day 1 focused on cooperation as the key for peaceful water sharing, challenges and opportunities for water cooperation and its role for decision-making, science and education and the way forward towards "The Future we want". On day 2, round-table working groups discussed the key messages that emanated from the Year. The ceremony's closing session concluded with a spotlight on the way ahead, including a focus on water in the preparations for the post-2015 development agenda, stressing the need to pay particular attention to water in the forthcoming post-2015 agenda.

45. In the context of the closing ceremony, the youth event *Joven + Agua* gathered about 40 youth representatives, mainly from Latin America and the Caribbean and various organizations working on water issues, including the World Youth Parliament for Water. They introduced their activities and projects and reviewed activities organized during the Year.

46. The International Year of Water Cooperation closing ceremony recognized water cooperation as the tool of choice: to improve water governance and water management at all levels; to provide water and sanitation for all; and to improve the management of transboundary water systems, both surface and groundwater. It also viewed cooperation as an adequate means to foster education and develop capacities; that water cooperation must be based on sound scientific understanding of water issues; and that it must be inclusive of all the actors involved in using and managing water who can contribute to the processes required, extending to hitherto underrepresented actors, like indigenous groups. Furthermore, the participants called to finally achieve gender equality in the domain of water through cooperation.

III. The worldwide campaign events registered during the International Year of Water Cooperation

47. The partners of the Water Cooperation 2013 campaign registered 982 events through the world map and database of events on www.watercooperation2013.org. A statistical analysis, based on two types of criteria (*basic*: such as location and date, contact; *descriptive*: including types of events and organizers, scale, scope and audience) yielded the results summarized below. The analysis indicates general tendencies of events planned for the campaign, but not necessarily reported in detail.

1. Places of International Year of Water Cooperation events

48. Events for International Year of Water Cooperation and World Water Day were registered for 130 countries, as follows:

- 2 countries (India and the United States of America), between 97 and 101 events (together 20 per cent of all events)
- 4 countries (Brazil, Italy, Mexico and Spain) between 40 and 53 events
- 4 countries (Canada, France, the United Kingdom and Bulgaria) between 20 and 39 events
- 13 countries between 10 and 20

- 40 countries one event
- For the remaining 67 countries, between 1 and 10 events were reported

By geographic region, events were registered as follows:

- North America and Western Europe (ECE region), with 47 per cent of the total number of events, or 464
- Asia and Pacific (23 per cent of the total number of events, i.e., 221 events)
- Latin America and the Caribbean (20 per cent of the total number of events, i.e., 199 events)
- Arab States (6 per cent of the total number of events, i.e., 59 events)
- Sub-Saharan Africa (4 per cent of the total number of events, i.e., 37 events)

2. Event characterization

49. According to the analysis performed for the event's relation to the International Year of Water Cooperation, the World Water Day or to both, it was found that 54 per cent of the events were registered as related to the World Water Day, 21 per cent to International Year of Water Cooperation and 25 per cent to both.

50. Events were characterized as concerning three scales: (a) local, (b) national, and (c) international. The majority of the events (56 per cent) were local, followed by international (21 per cent) and national (18 per cent), and 5 per cent were not identified.

51. The analysis of the type of events shows that 19 per cent (186) of events were defined to be of a cultural nature, 115 events (12 per cent) took the form of an exhibition, 203 events (21 per cent) were seminars or conferences, 101 events (10 per cent) were workshops, 22 events (2 per cent) were organized as round tables, while 354 events (36 per cent) were classified as "Other". Here, the organizers of the events provided more than 100 different responses (making statistical analysis impractical), such as: water festival, youth discussion, educational activity, community event, symposium, online forum, YouTube video, walk for water, film screening, sport and cultural event, cleaning of water bodies, painting competition and others.

52. Regarding the Internet presence of events, more than 72 per cent of the events were promoted through or linked to a website: 712 events compared to 269 events without website support.

3. The target audiences

53. The analysis by target audience used the 11 predefined groups of people and combinations of groups, at which the events were aimed. In most cases the target audience was a combination of different target groups (210 unique and mixed responses).

54. The largest target group, the General public (229 events), corresponds to 23 per cent of the targeted audiences; followed by children (88 events), 9 per cent, and youth (74 events), 8 per cent. The combined audience of children, youth and general public (38 events) corresponds to 4 per cent of the total audience; the audiences in the category "Other" (32 events), corresponds to 3 per cent of the total.

The combined audience children, youth, general public and local communities (28 events), corresponds to 3 per cent of the total audience; the combination children and youth (27 events) corresponds to 3 per cent of the total audience.

55. Events aimed at academia represented 2 per cent (17 events) of the total events; those aimed at decision makers represented 1 per cent (13 events), at Government(s) 1 per cent (11 events). The private sector was targeted by 1 per cent (8 events); and those aimed at non-governmental organizations by 1 per cent of the total number of events. In the category "Other type of events", the 112 different answers were provided for the target audiences, which were divided in unique answers such as parents, media, municipalities, PhD students, political parties, schools and teachers, students, university community, employees, international organizations, families, etc., or a combination of these. In this specific category, the events targeting students (11 events) were the most numerous, and constituted 10 per cent of the group's total.

IV. Analysis of reported International Year of Water Cooperation events

56. It was an inherent goal of the Water Cooperation 2013 campaign to involve as large a public as possible. In order to complete and cross-check the information collected throughout the Year, a detailed survey developed by UN-Water members and partners (see para. 6) invited all the contacts registered throughout the Year to report on 33 points. More significant results from the analysis of the 311 reported contributions are summarized below.

1. Analysis by numbers of events

57. **Resources per contribution**: The median[10] amount per contribution (indicated cost of an event) was $3,000.

58. **Number of people impacted by the International Year** (i.e., depending on the type of contribution: number of CD/DVD sales, printed publications, number of website hits, number of participants, movie projections, etc.): An average of 2,778 people per event, were reached or impacted.

59. **Overall evaluation of the organization of the Year**: According to the rating obtained from 166 responses, the overall evaluation of the organization of the International Year of Water Cooperation was on average between "good" and "very good" (4.19; on a scale ranging from 1 "very bad" to 5 "very good").

60. **Countries of the implementing organizations**: India was the country with the most organizations implementing reported events during the Year (accounting for 10 per cent of total contributions), followed by Pakistan (5 per cent), France (4 per cent) and Colombia (4 per cent).

[10] The median (midpoint in the frequency distribution of values) was used, instead of mean, due to extreme values (i.e., one figure of $2,500,000).

Country of implementing organization	*Number of reported contributions*	*Percentage*
Colombia	12	4
Czech Republic	7	2
France	14	4
Germany	9	3
India	32	10
Italy	11	3.5
Pakistan	15	5
Romania	9	3
Spain	7	2.5
United Kingdom	8	3
United States of America	10	3
Total	**311**	**100**
Undefined	**48**	**15.5**

61. **Regional participation**: The highest number of events were registered in regions I (26 per cent) and IV (25 per cent).

Region	*Number of reported contributions*	*Percentage*[a]
I Western Europe and North America	81	26
II Eastern Europe and Central Asia	28	9
III Latin America and the Caribbean	20	6
IV Asia and the Pacific	79	25
V Africa and the Arab States	16	5
Total	**311**	**100**
Undefined	**87**	**28**

[a] For the purposes of the present report, only whole and 5 decimal points are shown in the data presented in percentages.

62. **Nature of participating organizations**: Participating organizations came mainly from civil society (22 per cent), the United Nations system (16 per cent), academia (11 per cent), and the private sector (9 per cent). In addition, 16 per cent of organizers classified themselves as "government entities", operating mostly at the

local (7 per cent) and national (6 per cent) levels.[11] UN-Water members (FAO, ILO, UNEP, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, ECA, ECLAC, UNDP, ECE, UNESCO and UNICEF) rank prominently among the organizers, with UNESCO accounting for over 30 contributions.

63. **Types of contributions**: The main types of contributions were events (58 per cent), with the next five non-exclusive options were as follows: workshops (18 per cent) seminars (16 per cent) exhibitions (15 per cent), conferences (14 per cent) and walks (11 per cent). Activities with children and youth (45 per cent) were also highly reported. A significant proportion of reported contributions consisted of websites (17 per cent), courses and training (14 per cent), publications (13 per cent) and field projects (13 per cent).

Types of contributions	*Number of reported contributions*	*Per cent*
Events (generic)	179	58
Activities with children and youth	141	45
Workshop	57	18
Website	54	17
Seminar	50	16
Exhibition	47	15
Conference	45	14
Courses/training	43	14
Publication	41	13
Field project	41	13
Movie/video	38	12
Walk	34	11
Contest	26	9
Festival	22	7
CD/DVD	19	6
Research project	19	6
Symposium	16	5

64. **Duration of reported field projects (including preparation)**: The tables below show the duration and type of reported field projects, which had a strong presence on both ends of the time spectrum: 17 short-term projects (less than 3 months) and 16 long-term projects (over one year) were reported. Out of a total of 41 reported field projects, more than half (27) were geared towards "information and awareness", while the rest (14) focused on "water and sanitation supply".

[11] The majority of survey participants (23%) selected the open text field option "Other" (listing in most cases, NGOs, museums or schools) which, if correctly assigned, would have resulted in an increase of the "civil society" percentage.

Duration of reported field project	*Number of reported contributions*	*Per cent of total contributions*
> 1 year	16	5
0 < 3 months	17	5
3 < 6 months	4	1
6 < 12 months	4	1.5

Type of reported field project	*Number of reported contributions*	*Per cent of total contributions*
Information and awareness	27	9
Water and sanitation supply	14	4

65. **Types of publications**: The main types of publications were articles and brochures (each accounting for 3 per cent of total reported contributions), while books and research reports were slightly less present, with 6 registered cases in each category.

Type of publication	*Number of reported contributions*	*Per cent of total contributions*
Article	11	3
Book	6	2
Brochure	10	3
Other	6	2
Research report	7	2

66. **Target groups**: The top five target groups were: (1) the private sector (78 per cent, 242), (2) women (76 per cent, 238), (3) government (73 per cent, 226), (4) NGOs (71 per cent, 220), and (5) experts (70 per cent, 219).

Target groups	*Number of reported contributions*	*Per cent*
Academia	205	66
Children	205	66
Youth	175	56
NGOs	220	71
Women	238	76
Decision makers	214	69
Experts	219	70
Government	226	73
Private sector	242	78
Local communities	203	65
General public	178	57

67. **How participating organizations learned about the IYWC**: In first place, organizers learned about the IYWC through television (98 per cent), followed by the

IYWC Facebook page (91 per cent), the press (85 per cent), colleagues and partners (85 per cent), other social networks (85 per cent) and the IYWC website (60 per cent).

2. Analysis by number of people involved or impacted

68. **Overall number of people involved/impacted:**[12] The total reported number of people involved or impacted by the Year was 548,409 (impacted both directly through personal attendance/participation, and indirectly, reached by printed publications, etc.).

69. With the highest number of people impacted in Western Europe and North America, the overall number of people involved/impacted per region is as follows: Region I (Western Europe and North America) 183,943 people; region II (Eastern Europe and Central Asia) 46,305 people; region III (Latin America and the Caribbean) 142,340 people; region IV (Asia and the Pacific) 120,689 people; and region V (Africa and the Arab States) 2,600 people. The number of people specifically impacted/reached by publications is 459,036. Finally, seven countries reported the participation of over 10,000 individuals: Armenia, Austria, Bangladesh, Colombia, France, India and Japan.

70. Out of all the people "impacted" by the Year, 233,642 participated in events where there was a focus on gender issues (with a mean of 3,651 people per event). In this respect, respondents of the questionnaire answered "yes" to the question "Does your contribution include a focus on gender issues?" in 25 per cent of reported contributions. In addition, Asia and the Pacific (Region IV) is where most events reported a focus on gender issues (33.8 per cent of the total of contributions where there was a focus on gender), followed by: region I (25 per cent), region V (11.3 per cent), region II (6.3 per cent) and region III (5 per cent). Finally, in 76 per cent of reported contributions, women were a "target group" (238). It is important to note that in 76 per cent of reported contributions youth was a "target group", whereas in 56 per cent of cases, children were a "target group". To conclude, 19 per cent of the reported activities included a focus on issues related to Africa.

V. Conclusions

71. **The International Year of Water Cooperation and the World Water Day supported the creation of new water-related dynamics in the international development agenda. The numerous events worldwide and large numbers of people involved, as well as their diverse backgrounds, have demonstrated the great relevance of water cooperation as the global civilization is facing vital challenges. The Campaign has helped to increase knowledge about cooperation and to reinforce political will and existing legal frameworks, accountability and institutional structures that can provide a solid foundation for water cooperation. They must be further strengthened. While establishing water cooperation among all concerned can only be the result of a long-term process requiring time, patience and mutual trust, facts and figures highlighted above**

[12] Approximate number of people who participated (i.e., depending on contribution type: sales figures for CD/DVD, printed publication/website hits/number of participants to activities, event, movie projections or project).

show that the Year's campaign has clearly contributed a strong impetus for cooperative action at all levels.

72. With the importance of developing fruitful and sustainable partnerships across sectors and regions as a leitmotiv, the International Year of Water Cooperation's impact is likely to have durably modified the international water community in its striving to ensure sustainable water for all.

73. Another significant outcome: Youth took on the responsibility to take concrete actions according to the need and reality of specific water resources (Youth Declaration). The presence of Youth representatives in many events across the world warrants intergenerational cooperation and constitutes a game changer for water-related sustainable development.

74. The International Year of Water Cooperation made it clear that water cooperation is the tool of choice: to improve water governance and water management at all levels; to provide water and sanitation for all; and to improve the management of transboundary water systems, both surface and groundwater. Cooperation is also an adequate means to foster education and capacity development; it must be based on sound scientific understanding of water issues; and it must be inclusive of all the actors involved in using and managing water and who can contribute to the processes required, extending to hitherto underrepresented actors, like indigenous groups and the poor. Furthermore, the International Year of Water Cooperation reminded to finally achieve gender equality in the domain of water, both, by the means of and in cooperation.

List of the annexes available through the UN-Water website

I. Information on the preparatory phase of the United Nations 2013 International Year of Water Cooperation, key messages and objectives

II. Declaration of Youth

III. Background for analysing the Water Events register

IV. Contributions and contributing organizations to the International Year of Water Cooperation and World Water Day as recorded through the UNESCO/UN-Water survey, December 2013 to March 2014.

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Sixty-ninth session
Item 51 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

The occupied Syrian Golan

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/84, in which the Secretary-General was requested to report to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the resolution.

* A/69/150.

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1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/84, in which the Assembly called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with the relevant resolutions on the occupied Syrian Golan, in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981), in which the Council decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without international legal effect, and demanded that Israel rescind forthwith its decision. The Assembly repeated its call upon Member States not to recognize any of the legislative or administrative measures and actions referred to in the resolution and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of resolution 68/84.

2. On 23 April 2014, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), on behalf of the Secretary-General, addressed a note verbale to the Government of Israel, in which Israel was asked to provide information on any steps it had taken or envisaged taking concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the aforementioned resolution. At the time of reporting, no reply had been received.

3. Also on 23 April, OHCHR, on behalf of the Secretary-General, sent a note verbale to the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic and all other permanent missions to the United Nations in Geneva, asking Member States to provide information on any steps they had taken or envisaged taking concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution. In addition to the response from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic, replies were received from the Permanent Missions of Algeria, Colombia, Cuba and Slovakia to the United Nations in Geneva.

4. In its reply dated 6 June 2013, the Syrian Arab Republic mentioned that, since 1967, the international community had rejected the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan, as reflected in several United Nations resolutions, most recently in General Assembly resolution 68/17. The Syrian Arab Republic recalled that after 47 years of occupation, Israel continued its practices with impunity and with disregard for international law and United Nations resolutions, despite repeated international calls to end the occupation and to halt its daily repressive practices in the occupied Syrian Golan.

5. The Syrian Arab Republic affirmed that the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East would require the implementation of United Nations resolutions aimed at ending the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan and other Arab territories. The Syrian Arab Republic stated that President Bashar al-Assad had shown, on several occasions, his willingness to resume peace negotiations on the same basis upon which the Madrid peace process was started in 1991. It further noted that in international forums, the Syrian Arab Republic had declared its full commitment to relevant international resolutions and had called for their implementation, in particular Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 497 (1981). The Syrian Arab Republic also called for the implementation of the principle of land for peace, in order to ensure the full withdrawal by Israel from all of the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967.

6. According to the Syrian Arab Republic, in addition to the occupation of the Syrian Golan, Israel persisted in its aggression and provocation by providing logistical support to what the Syrian Arab Republic referred to as "terrorists", and through military intervention in the Syrian Arab Republic, such as the attacks

against a school and a mosque in Al-Ahmadiyah village. The Syrian Arab Republic mentioned that providing support to those individuals was in flagrant violation of international law and the separation of forces agreement.

7. The Syrian Arab Republic condemned the Israeli settlement policy in the occupied Syrian Golan, noting that Israel continued to disregard the resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the matter, most recently Human Rights Council resolution 25/31. In that resolution, the Human Rights Council confirmed the illegality of the settlements and other Israeli activities in the occupied Syrian Golan, and reiterated its call on Israel to desist from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan.

8. The Syrian Arab Republic condemned Israeli practices and conduct aimed at controlling and looting resources in the occupied Syrian Golan, in violation of Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and General Assembly resolution 68/235 on the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources. According to the Syrian Arab Republic, Israel has exploited the natural resources of the occupied Syrian Golan, and allowed settlers to exclusively use those resources, while depriving the Syrian population of their benefits. The Syrian Arab Republic also warned of the risks of the measures taken by Israel to explore for oil in the occupied Syrian Golan and referred to the decision of the Israeli Ministry of National Infrastructures, Energy and Water Resources to grant United States-based Genie Oil and Gas a licence to carry out such exploration, noting that it constituted a gross violation of international law and United Nations resolutions.

9. As in previous notes verbales, the Syrian Arab Republic reiterated its concerns regarding the extraction of water by Israel from Lake Masada, in 2010 to establish a farm for settlers, considering that the action constituted a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and that it had led to an economic and environmental disaster for the occupied Syrian Golan. Furthermore, the Syrian Arab Republic condemned the funding by the European Union of a survey aimed at promoting alternative tourism in the Israeli settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan.

10. The Syrian Arab Republic called upon Member States to refuse, in accordance with their obligations under international law, the importation of natural or manufactured products from the occupied territories and to remind Israel of its obligations under international law. In that context, the Syrian Arab Republic referred to reports on settlers exporting wine produced in the occupied territory to the European Union while illegally labelling it as an Israeli product.

11. The Syrian Arab Republic repeated its rejection of the decision by the Knesset on 22 November 2010 to organize a general referendum on the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Syrian Golan and East Jerusalem. According to the Syrian Arab Republic, the decision was not in compliance with Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and was a violation of international law, which stipulates that a territory should not be acquired by force.

12. The Syrian Arab Republic reiterated its request to the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the President of the Human Rights Council and the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross

that they pressure Israel to ensure that Syrian prisoners detained in its jails were kept under more humane and healthier conditions, and to condemn inhumane conditions and the deprivation of visitation rights.

13. As in previous notes verbales, the Syrian Arab Republic called for international pressure on Israel to allow the Syrian population of the occupied Syrian Golan to visit their families in the Syrian Arab Republic through the Quneitra crossing. The Syrian Arab Republic noted that preventing such visits was in violation of the Geneva Conventions and customary international humanitarian law and led to the suffering of Syrians in the occupied Syrian Golan.

14. The Syrian Arab Republic concluded by stating that reaching sustainable peace and stability in the Middle East would require measures to ensure the enforcement of all relevant international resolutions, including the Geneva Conventions, without discrimination or selectivity.

15. On 9 July 2014, the Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations in Geneva sent a note verbale announcing that, in accordance with resolution 68/84, it did not recognize any of the legislative or administrative measures and actions taken by Israel.

16. In it response dated 12 June 2014, the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations in Geneva reiterated the importance of efforts within the framework of the United Nations to end the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan. At the same time, Cuba urged the international community not to recognize any legislative or administration measures undertaken by Israel in line with resolution 68/84. Cuba reaffirmed that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel to change the legal status, physical characteristics, demographic composition and the institutional structure of the occupied Syrian Golan were null and without any legal validity. Cuba also indicated that the acquisition of territory was non-admissible by virtue of international law and that it was unacceptable for the Syrian Golan to remain under the military occupation of Israel.

17. Cuba called upon Israel to withdraw from all of the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967, in compliance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). It further stated that Israel should renounce its unrestrained attempts to take over the occupied Syrian Golan. In the view of Cuba, the foreign occupation, policies of expansion and aggression, racial discrimination, the establishment of settlements, the creation of fait accompli on the ground and the forcible annexation of territories were practices that violated international instruments and norms.

18. Moreover, Cuba considered that practices and conduct by Israel to control and usurp the resources of the occupied Syrian Golan violated Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and General Assembly resolution 68/235. Cuba further condemned the "brutal" practices in Israeli prisons and reiterated its serious concerns about the inhumane conditions to which Syrian detainees had been subjected, which had had a negative impact on their health and had put their lives in danger, in clear violation of international humanitarian law.

19. Cuba indicated that, in line with the Arab Peace Initiative and the Madrid peace process, and in conformity with relevant Security Council resolutions, the 120 members of the Non-Aligned Movement had expressed their unconditional support for and solidarity with the legitimate demand of the Syrian Arab Republic to

reinstate its full sovereignty over the occupied Syrian Golan. Cuba considered the ongoing occupation of the Syrian Golan and its de facto annexation by Israel to be an obstacle to achieving a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the region.

20. On 24 June 2014, the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations in Geneva replied to the note verbale sent by OHCHR. Colombia stated that it viewed the situation in the Middle East as an integral issue and therefore advocated a structured and lasting solution to the situation in the region. Colombia viewed negotiation as the only means to achieve a lasting solution and highlighted that it was unacceptable to use force as a means to obtain territory. Colombia stressed its support for achieving lasting regional peace through consensus and dialogue.

21. On 3 July 2014, the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations in Geneva responded to the aforementioned note verbale. It stated that on several occasions Algeria had condemned the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan and had called for the resumption of Syrian sovereignty over the territory and respect for human rights in the region. According to Algeria, solving the issue of the occupied Syrian Golan was a prerequisite for a fair and comprehensive solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict as a whole.

22. Algeria condemned in the strongest terms possible the repressive practices of Israel against the Syrian population, and its practices to change the demographic composition of the occupied Syrian Golan through the establishment of settlements. Algeria expressed support for numerous resolutions adopted by the League of Arab States in which Israeli practices and gross violations of the human rights of the Syrian population in the occupied territory were condemned. According to Algeria those resolutions called upon the United Nations, the Security Council and the Human Rights Council to urge Israel, as the occupying Power, to respect the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; to protect the rights of the Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan; and to facilitate visits by members of that population to their families in the Syrian Arab Republic. The resolutions also called upon those entities to hold Israel responsible for the violations committed on a daily basis in the occupied territory.

23. In addition, Algeria stated that Israel should respect Security Council resolutions concerning the occupied Syrian Golan, particularly resolution 497 (1981), and urged the international community to request that Israel abolish its decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan.